

■ METRO/A17

Smokey Mountain among 5 sites to be turned into urban greening centers

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England, Ecuador, Germany advance to World Cup second round

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US military deaths in Iraq hit 2,500; war costs estimated at \$319B

■ NEWS/A2

Kidnapped businesswoman rescued in Caloocan; 3 suspects killed in shootout



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New 'housing' problem a job for Team Villar



By Philip C. Tubeza
BEFORE JOINING POLITICS, Manuel Villar was the housing industry leader. With his wife by his side, he built more than 100,000 houses for the poor and middle-class Filipino families.

GMA orders Reds crushed in 2 years

P1B to AFP, PNP kicks off all-out war vs NPA

By Christine O. Avendaño

CAUAYAN, ISABELA—IN A MOVE TANTAMOUNT to a declaration of war, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday committed billions of pesos in funds to fight the 37-year-old communist insurgency with guns and development projects.

Malacanang officials indicated their timetable called for defeating the insurgency in the "critical areas" in one to two years.

The earlier military timetable for stamping out the insurgency within 10 years was "too long," Ms Arroyo said in a visit to Isabela province, where she held the first of four meetings with regional leaders to discuss so-called "mega-development plans."

With revenue surpluses as funding sources, Ms Arroyo committed P1 billion to finance military and police operations against the communist New People's Army and P75 billion to spark investment and development in the next three years in North Luzon, where the insurgency remains a major headache.

Ms Arroyo said that while the government was determined to carry out its anti-poverty program, "the fight against the Left remains the glue that binds."

The President announced the steps needed to be taken overcome what her administration considers to be its number one enemy.

"We need to buy and we will buy surplus Hueys and other attack helicopters and control aircraft on soft terms. I am instructing (Budget) Secretary (Rolando) Andaya to release P1 billion to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to finance operations versus the NPA," Ms Arroyo said in her opening statement at the first Cabinet and regional develop

GMA/A6

693 cases filed all over RP; Joma says cover-up

By Fe Zamora

SHOWING ITS DETERMINATION to finally put the squeeze on him, the government has begun filing throughout the country a cluster of criminal charges against Jose Maria Sison. But the exiled founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines said the allegations were intended to divert public attention from the administration's own crimes.

A security official who reports to Malacañang told the INQUIRER yesterday the cases against Sison included rebel attacks on government and private installations, municipal halls, military detachments and police stations in 15 regions across the country.

They also included raids on

power plants and on the relay towers of Globe and Smart telecommunications companies, according to the official, who reports directly to the Cabinet security cluster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the official told the INQUIRER.

The official asked not to be identified for security reasons and for lack of an official clearance to talk to the media.

The cases that have been filed so far against Sison, who lives in exile in the Netherlands, were initiated by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces and were among 693 incidents of supposed atrocities committed by the New People's Army since 2003, according to the official.

693 CASES/A6



THE NO. 1 PROBLEM: President Arroyo talks about her plans to finish off the country's 37-year-old communist insurgency during the joint Cabinet meeting with regional leaders and development councils of north Luzon at the Isabela Hotel, Cauayan, Isabela on Friday. Trade Secretary Peter Favila is at left; NEDA chief Romulo Neri, right.

LYN REILLO

Pinoy or not, Asi must pay taxes — BIR

By Armand N. Nocum

BASKETBALL STAR PAUL ASI TAULAVA, WHO is fighting tooth and nail to be declared a Filipino, must pay taxes like the rest of his countrymen.

This hard reality hit Taulava, whose citizenship case remains pending in court, after he was indicted yesterday for 10 counts of tax evasion, a violation of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC).

In a 22-page resolution, the Department of Justice said there was "probable cause to warrant the indictment of [Taulava]" on the following grounds: He failed to file tax returns from 1999 to 2003, he failed to register with the BIR from 1999 and 2000, he failed to pay the annual registration fee for 2002 and 2003, and he secured more than one tax information number (TIN).

In a 22-page resolution, the Department of Justice said there was "probable cause to warrant the indictment of [Taulava]" on the following grounds: He failed to file tax returns from 1999 to 2003, he failed to register with the BIR from 1999 and 2000, he failed to pay the annual registration fee for 2002 and 2003, and he secured more than one tax information number (TIN).

PINOY/A8

lowing grounds: He failed to file tax returns from 1999 to 2003, he failed to register with the BIR from 1999 and 2000, he failed to pay the annual registration fee for 2002 and 2003, and he secured more than one tax information number (TIN).

Defense lawyers grill witness on condom

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Volt Contreras

THE HANDLING OF THE CONDOM USED in the alleged rape of a Filipino woman last year at the Subic Bay Freeport took up some time at yesterday's hearing at the Makati Regional Trial Court.

Defense lawyers grilled Genevieve Puno, evidence custodian of a Subic Bay investigation office, on how she handled evidence that the prosecution is banking on to prove that four US Marines raped 22-year-old "Nicole" inside a moving van on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

Of particular interest to defense counsel Francisco Rodrigo was how Puno kept and marked the condom allegedly used by Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith on that night.

Rodrigo, counsel for Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, asked Puno to demonstrate how she handled the condom retrieved as evidence. The condom was dangling from Nicole's pants when bystanders found her distraught at a parking lot at the port's Alava Pier.

"How long did you keep the condom? Where did you keep it? Did you keep it in a refrigerator or a drawer?" Rodrigo said, firing one question after another.

"The condom was wrapped in a coupon bond. It was inside a brown paper bag with the [complainant's] pants, underwear and other evidence turned over to me. I placed it on top of my table, on one corner," said Puno, of the Intelligence and Investigation Office (IIO) of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's Law Enforcement Department.

Nicole had alleged that Smith raped her at

the back of a Starex van while she was barely conscious, and while his comrades—Lance Corporals Silkwood and Dominic Duplantier, and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter—cheered him on.

"That now infamous cheer—"Go, go, go, Smith, go!"—again cropped up at yesterday's hearing, with crime investigator Paquito Torres of the IIO recalling it as part of the "voluntary" statement he got from Timoteo Soriano, the Filipino driver of the rented van.

Guided by state prosecutor Hazel Valdez, Torres attested to portions of Soriano's original statement, which was done in Filipino.

Some of the marked passages had the driver recounting that as he drove slowly

DEFENSE/A4



SHIELDED BY WARM BODIES, "Nicole" sits midway of the Makati courtroom.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western section of Luzon and the whole of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms, mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: CHILL BOMBAYITE FOR RESEARCH/06/17/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer.news.name@age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rain	Marikina	Cloudy with Rain
Baguio	Cloudy with Rain	Marikina	Cloudy with Rain
Yuguegaray	Partly Cloudy	Marikina	Cloudy with Rain
Laosay	Cloudy with Rain	Marikina	Cloudy with Rain
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rain	Marikina	Cloudy with Rain
Tuguegaray	Cloudy with Rain	Marikina	Cloudy with Rain
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Marikina	Cloudy with Rain
Cebu	Cloudy with Rain	Marikina	Cloudy with Rain

Kidnapped woman rescued

Bombing not ours, say rebel soldiers

By Tony S. Bergonia
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A GROUP OF REBEL SOLDIERS has denied involvement in the spate of bombings which hit Metro Manila and elsewhere, saying that if they wanted to destabilize the government, they would strike "right in the heart of the Palace."

A junior officer, who identified himself by the nom de guerre Capt. Batingaw, said in an interview with GMA 7's Arnold Clavio that rebel soldiers were not behind the series of bombings that National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales blamed on forces out to destabilize the Arroyo administration.

A transcript of the interview was furnished the INQUIRER.

"Kung kami ang gagawin... hindi kami gagawin ng ganon (If we were to move, we won't do such a thing)," said Batingaw in his interview with Clavio.

Swift, fast strike

"Gagawin na kami mismo... right in the heart of the Palace. Right there, mismo... We will be there already in (a) swift, fast and lightning strike (We will move... right in the heart of the Palace. Right there, itself. We will be there already in a swift, fast and lightning strike)," he said.

This part of the interview was not aired on Saksi, GMA 7's late night news program.

Yesterday, the military said it had no evidence yet linking the so-called Magdalo rebel soldiers to the recent bomb attacks.

"He may have his own sources but as far as the Armed Forces of



HIS FACE covered, 'Batingaw' gives an interview.

GMA 7 TV GRAB

the Philippines is concerned, we have no information to that effect," military public information chief Col. Tristan Kison said in reaction to Gonzales' claim that Magdalo soldiers were behind the blasts.

Kison said they have no information if soldiers were involved.

"We are still awaiting results of the police investigation," he said.

Lawyer Roel Pulido, counsel of the Magdalo officers, also denied that his clients were behind the recent bomb attacks.

"Secretary Gonzales may not be aware they (Magdalo officers) are in jail. Tell him they are in jail," Pulido said mockingly.

"What would they think of next, blame them for the eruption (of Mt. Bulusan)?" Pulido added.

In the interview with Clavio, Batingaw said if rebel soldiers and officers were to conduct the bombings, they wouldn't do it the way it was being done.

"Bakit kami pipili ng oras na ganun? Madaling araw. Walang laman yung van. Kita mo yung pinasabog, walang tao, walang armas. Walang pakikibabangon (Why would we pick that time?

Dawn. The van was empty. Look at what they blew up. There's no one there, no firearms. We won't get anything out of it)," said Batingaw.

The recent blasts, which occurred mostly at dawn, hit the Grepalife building in Makati, the mansion of alleged gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda in Pampanga, a police station in Quezon City and a van of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig. No one was injured in the blasts.

Batingaw said the bombings could be the work of government agents.

"Ang labat ng ito ay may katugyan sa antiterrorism bill para maipasa. Gaano kalaking halaga ang naghihintay from the big eagle sakaling magkaroon tayo ng antiterror law. Pera yan, pera, (Everything is connected to the antiterrorism bill so it would pass. How much is being dangled by the big eagle just in case we pass a terror law. It's all about money, money)," said Batingaw.

Gonzales earlier denied accusations that the government was behind the bombings.

Cops kill 3 suspects in raid

By Luige A. del Puerto and Nancy Carvajal

POLICE RESCUED A CHINESE-FILIPINO BUSINESSWOMAN and killed three of her alleged kidnappers in a shootout during a raid on the group's hideout in Caloocan City early yesterday.

A team from the Presidential Anti-Crime and Emergency Response and the Northern Police District stormed the safe house inside the Vista Verde subdivision in Barangay Kaybiga at about 7 a.m., killing three suspects.

They found the victim, 42-year-old Sonia Sanchez, handcuffed and cowering behind a cabinet door, but safe.

Police Director General Arturo Lomibao said an anonymous male had called the Pacer hotline, saying that a woman fitting Sanchez's description had been seen in the Caloocan neighborhood.

A surveillance was conducted before a rescue operation was organized and the woman was recovered unharmed, Lomibao said.

P20 million ransom

Sanchez was seized at about 5:30 a.m. last Thursday as she was opening the auto spare parts store that she owned in Palanan, Makati.

The suspects, believed to be members of a splinter group of the Waray Waray kidnap gang, had demanded a P20 million ransom. The amount had gone down to P15 million by the time Sanchez was rescued.

Deputy Director Oscar Calderon, the Pacer chief, said no ransom money was paid.

Sanchez was found "visibly shaken but unhurt," said Insp. Roy Malizi, a Pacer operative.

She had "the sense to shield herself from the gunfire by covering her body with the cabinet door," he said.

Calderon said the caller's tip and the ensuing surveillance confirmed the location of the kidnappers' hideout.

"When our men went in, the kidnappers fired and our men returned fire," he said.

Suspect identified

Only one of the three suspects was identified. Sprawled near the door of the room where the kidnap victim was being held was Edgar Suela of Jaro, Leyte. He was identified through a residence certificate found in his wallet which had about a thousand pesos in cash.

Found under a large tree at the back of the house was a second suspect, a gunshot wound in his neck. He had a "Marlon Viador" tattoo in one arm.

The third was slumped at the foot of the concrete fence at the back of the house. Police said he may have been trying to escape through the back which faced a vacant lot.

The suspects were armed with a 9 mm Ingram with silencer, a .45 cal. pistol and .38 cal. revolver. Investigators recovered five empty shells.

Also found at the crime scene was a pair of inexpensive plastic

yellow shades covered with electric tape.

The victim was apparently asked to wear the shades instead of a blindfold so as not to attract attention, police said.

Calderon said the police was very grateful to the anonymous caller.

"His timely information led to the successful rescue operation. We hope the community will continue to help the (Philippine National Police)," he said.

Anonymous caller

The anonymous male caller phoned the Pacer at about 11 a.m. last Thursday, saying he saw a group of men dragging a woman to a house inside the Vista Verde subdivision some two hours earlier.

He gave the address of the house, a two-bedroom duplex at 1B-Bona St., Vista Verde Subdivision, North Caloocan City.

The Pacer, which had already been alerted of the abduction by then, immediately sent a team and placed the house under surveillance.

The team was able to confirm that a woman was being held in a room in the house and that three men were guarding her.

Calderon said the suspects appeared to have sensed the police team's presence.

The still unidentified Pacer team leader weighed his options and decided to attempt a rescue.

"They caught up with the suspects at the door. The suspects fought back," Calderon said in a mixture of Filipino and English.

The shootout lasted only a few minutes.

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New 'housing' problem a job for Team Villar

From page A1

Team Villar is being called upon to help with another uh, housing problem.

The leadership of the House of Representatives is expecting Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, wife of incoming Senate President Villar, to help resolve the House's differences with the Senate, including the sharp disagreements over Charter change.

Backchannel

House Majority Leader Pros-

pero Nograles said the House leadership was hoping that Representative Villar would help in "backchannel" negotiations with the Upper Chamber now that her husband would be assuming the Senate presidency.

Nograles added that he expected that "all irritants" in the House-Senate relationship would be removed once the backchannel talks begin.

"One thing I'm sure about his assumption to office is that there will be a lot of backchanneling. I

am sure we will have better relations with the Senate unlike what we had under [outgoing President Franklin] Drilon, when there were never any backchannel talks. There were no coffee shop talks," Nograles said.

"Considering that [Rep. Villar] is our colleague, the lines of communication are now open. We don't have to talk to Manny Villar, we only have to talk to Cynthia. She can show the temperament of the House," he added.

Nograles said another plus was Senator Villar's experience as a former congressman, which would make him more sensitive to the concerns of House members.

"He has many friends here. Alam niya hulihiin ang kiliti ng mga (He knows how to talk to) congressmen," Nograles said.

Villar is scheduled to take over the Senate presidency on July 24, when the third regular session of the 13th Congress begins.



HOUSE-SENATE bonding is not an unlikely prospect once Sen. Villar is Senate president next month with his wife Cynthia, a prominent member in the House.

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No inciting, just breach of peace

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA POLICE District (MPD) suffered a setback after the inciting to sedition charges they filed against two college students and a hospital employee who heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday was downgraded to violating a city ordinance.

Lawyer Elaine Cerezo, assistant chief for inquest at the Manila Prosecutor's Office, said the three violated City Ordinance No. 844 or breach of peace. A bail of P100 each was recommended for the suspects' temporary liberty.

Defense lawyers grill witness on condom

From page A1

at the port on the night of Nov. 1, 2005, his American passengers were rowdy and shouting.

Carpentier, who took the passenger seat next to Soriano, turned up the volume of the radio, a passage read.

It continued: "Sa tingin ko, pinagkasamantalahan yung babaeng sakay ko (I suspected that my female passenger was being raped). I could hear [her] shouting but I couldn't understand because the Americans and the stereo were too loud."

Asked in the statement who could be raping the woman, Soriano purportedly replied that it was Smith who was seated next to the woman and that his comrades were shouting, "Go, go, go, Smith, go!"

Demonstration

Asked by Rodrigo to explain further, Puno said the condom was wrapped in a sheet of bond paper that was folded thrice crosswise and then on either sides. The flaps on the sides were then stapled.

Rodrigo asked how Puno could have possibly marked the condom without touching it—an act that might have contaminated the evidence.

Puno demonstrated how she did it, using a piece of yellow pad.

"I opened one end and slid out the condom [onto another piece of bond paper]. Using the tip of one pen and another pen, I straightened it so it would flatten, and so I could write on it," she said.

"But how did you put it back inside without touching it?" Rodrigo said.

Puno responded by sliding an imaginary condom from the paper where she had dropped it, into the improvised envelope where it came from.

Rodrigo also wanted to know if Puno noticed that any part of the complainant's pants or underwear was torn.

Puno answered in the negative.

Taking his turn, Smith's lawyer Benjamin Formoso asked Puno to describe the condom. He specifically wanted to know if she had noticed anything inside it.

"Base sa pagkakita ko, yung condom po ay mabuhangin at malagkit-lagkit (From what I saw, it had some sand and was sticky)," Puno said.

14 hours later

The pieces of evidence were turned over to Puno's office by IIO case investigator Ramon Paje at around 1 p.m. of Nov. 2, or almost 14 hours after the alleged rape.

The evidence bag was on her desk from that day until noon of Nov. 7, when they were turned over the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory.

Apart from Nicole's clothing and the used condom, Puno took custody of an empty condom sachet and a bottle of beer, retrieved from the area where the complainant was found.

She also took custody of the trip ticket of Starways Transport Service Inc., the company that owned the Starex van.

The van and its key were also turned over to Puno.

'Voluntary' act

Torres, the 10th witness for the prosecution and also of the IIO, maintained under oath that he never coerced driver Soriano into making his statement less than 24 hours after the alleged crime.

He had to point this out after a prosecution counsel showed him the "second statement" submitted by Soriano five weeks after the incident, in which the driver claimed that he mentioned "gang rape" in his original narrative after Torres punched him twice and threatened to include him among the suspects.

"I deny ever assaulting him. All he did was voluntary," said Torres, referring to his two-hour interview session with Soriano.

On direct examination by state prosecutor Valdez, Torres said various individuals, including high-ranking officials, were in his office during his first meeting with Soriano at around 9:30 p.m. of Nov. 2.

Among them, he said, were Zamboales Rep. Mitos Magsaysay, SBMA legal consultant Carlitos Cruz and businessman (and fellow prosecution witness) Joseph Khonghuan.

He said these persons were going in and out of his room.

When a defense counsel questioned the relevance of establishing their presence, Valdez countered that this was "to prove there was no coercion."

Recantation

Torres said that by the time he concluded taking Soriano's statement at around 1 a.m. of Nov. 3, Antonio Ramos and Guy Papa-george, agents of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), were present.

At 9:30 a.m., Soriano was made to swear on the document before a prosecutor. The proceedings were also witnessed by another prosecutor, as well as SBMA Administrator Armand Areza.

Soriano's purported "recantation" entered the case records on Dec. 8, 2005, during the preliminary investigation at the Olon-gapo City prosecutors office.

Torres said he did not know of any charge being subsequently filed against him by Soriano over the alleged threats he made and punches he threw at the driver.

In an earlier hearing, NCIS resident agent Ronald Beltz said he met Soriano on Nov. 16, 2005—or much earlier, before the latter's public recantation—at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

Beltz said it was Soriano who contacted him through a female intermediary. He said the driver was then "frightened" and "had gone into hiding."

State of shock

Torres also said he spoke with Nicole at his office on the morning of Nov. 2, after she came from the James Gordon Hospital for treatment accompanied by her sister and Investigator Elsie Cabral.

"She was complaining that her body and private parts ached," he said in Filipino. "She was in a state of shock and would suddenly cry."

Torres said Nicole was "not comfortable with a male investigator," which was why he asked Cabral to continue the interview with her.

Cross-examining Torres, defense counsel Jose Justiniano tried to corner the investigator on why the rape complaint originally named six US Marines as respondents when Soriano recalled having only five American passengers and the complainant in his van.

Torres explained that the information he got coming from NCIS agent Ramos, whom he described as a "reliable source" and a "competent authority," counted six suspects.

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CHORUS 1
Tayo nang magkantaan,
Habang nagasayawan.
Problemang malilitan,
Ito ang ating kailangan
XTREME XTREME MAGIC SING!

Tayo'y magsaya,
Kalimutan mga ang problema
Magkantaan tayo
Kahal hanggang umaga
Si tatay, si nanay, si ate at si kuya
Kasama ang lahat ng buong pamilya

(Repeat Chorus 1)
(Bridge: Instrumental)
(Repeat II)

CHORUS 2
Iba ang XTREME MAGIC SING,
Lalo along gumagaling
Champion din sa kantahan,
Hindi lamang sa boxing!
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SATURDAY,
JUNE 17, 2006

A3

GMA to sign repeal of death penalty on eve of Vatican trip

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO, WHO has pushed for the abolition of the death penalty, said yesterday she will sign a law banning capital punishment before making a trip to the Vatican next week.

Congress last week approved a bill abolishing the death penalty despite protests from relatives of crime victims, who believe Ms Arroyo, a staunch Roman Catholic, rushed approval to please the pope. The President needs to sign the bill for it to become law.

Arroyo will leave next Saturday for Italy before traveling on to Spain.

"That's a good day to sign the death penalty abolition," she said. "Not only it is on the eve of my departure, but it is the feast of St. John the Baptist who was a victim of death penalty in his time."

Ms Arroyo's first stop will be Milan before continuing to Vatican City to meet Pope Benedict XVI.

She also will meet separately with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano.

From Italy, she will travel to Spain to hold talks with King Juan Carlos III and President Jose Luis Gonzalez Zapatero.

Papal Nuncio Fernando Filoni, the Vatican's envoy to Manila, early this week praised the Philippine government for moving to outlaw capital punishment and taking "this step toward the culture of life."

Filoni, however, pointed out that "other fundamental rights of a person have not been properly defended."

He did not specify, but left-wing groups have criticized the government's crackdown on opponents and Ms Arroyo's failure to stop a wave of extrajudicial killings of their members, allegedly by security forces.

More than 600 left-wing activists and their supporters have been killed since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001. Her government has repeatedly denied responsibility and has ordered an investigation into the killings.

More than 1,200 death-row convicts — including at least 11 al-Qaida-linked militants — will benefit from the removal of capital punishment.

The 1987 Constitution abolished the death penalty that dictator Ferdinand Marcos' government used to execute about a dozen people convicted of rape and drug charges.

Congress restored the death penalty in late 1993 for heinous crimes such as murder, child rape and kidnapping. Seven people convicted of rape and robbery with killings have been executed since then.

AP

Pope's envoy gives bishops reason to get involved

THE COUNTRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS may have found better reason to get more involved in socio-political issues.

No less than the new Vatican ambassador, Archbishop Fernando Filoni, encouraged the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) "to look at the needs of the country, not just on the spiritual aspects, but also concerning the rights of the people."

The apostolic nuncio gave the message during a dinner with members of the CBCP's permanent council the other night, the CBCP reported yesterday.

The permanent council is the CBCP's policy making body whenever the bishops are not in plenary session which happens twice yearly.

Also present at the dinner at the CBCP compound in Intramuros were Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the CBCP president.

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GMA orders Reds crushed in 2 years

From page A1

ment council meeting for the North Luzon Area.

Decisive edge

She said she had instructed national security officials to work with the Department of Budget and Management "on selected hardware and fundings aside from the P5 billion per year (for) modernization."

"That will give [us] a decisive edge against the NPA," the President said. "These are investments that will yield peace dividends to the economy," she declared.

Ms Arroyo slammed the "opposition Left," for "internationalizing its campaign against the government and using the issue of human rights to 'demonize our administration' before the international community."

Critical areas

She said this was why she was going to Spain next week, as part of her foreign trip, "to thank the government of Spain because they have consistently supported us in our fight for security and stability in our country."

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor told reporters that Ms Arroyo had told defense officials that instead of their target of 6-10 years to wipe out insurgency, they should have a "short term, medium term and long term" strategy.

"We're not saying we can achieve this immediately but at least we can do this in critical areas, like Quezon, Southern Tagalog and Northern Luzon," Defensor said.

2-pronged approach

He recalled that during her Independence Day speech, Ms Arroyo had called for unity and for peace in Mindanao.

"So here is the answer to the problem of the communist threat," Defensor said.

Asked how soon Ms Arroyo wanted the job done, Defensor said: "In the short term, one to two years ... at least in the critical areas that

needed to be addressed."

He stressed that the administration was addressing the insurgency problem by a "two-pronged approach."

One of these approaches is "by strengthening the economy and that was why we have today a regional development program," Defensor said.

Communist threat

The military, on the other hand, will address the problem of insurgency, he said.

Asked whether there was a single incident that prompted Ms Arroyo to take a new offensive against the CPP-NPA, Defensor said the development programs of the government had been affected by the communist threat in the countryside.

He said that investments could not come in if the peace and order situation "will continue as we see it now."

After the meeting of the President and her Cabinet with regional leaders of North Luzon, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo had told them that she had committed to give the region P25 billion per year or P75 billion in the next three years for their proposed development programs.

4 regional groups

The money will come from national budget allocations, Bunye told reporters.

"The President said it's now that we are in a position to fund this budget because of the reform programs that she has started," he said.

"That P75 billion over three years is now a very reasonable resource allocation per regional grouping," Bunye said.

Malacanang plans to turn "four enlarged regional groupings" into investment and development areas, and these are North Luzon, Metro Luzon, Central Philippines and Mindanao, officials said.

Counter-insurgency

Andaya told reporters that the P1-billion fund to be used for government operations against the NPA would come from savings in the reenacted 2005 budget.

"We will just augment the current opera-

tions of the AFP and the PNP," he said.

Andaya said the AFP and the PNP would have to inform the DBM of counter-insurgency operations they wanted funded and state, among others, the number of operations to be conducted and the areas where they would conduct this.

He said he had had initial talks with AFP and PNP officials but he needed a formal letter from them.

On top of the P5 billion set aside by the government for the modernization of the AFP, Andaya also said that the government was set to sign an agreement with the United States on the purchase of helicopters and strategic aircraft.

"It will be payable after two years," he said.

GMA's legacy

He said these aircraft could be delivered one month after the agreement was signed.

Asked whether the President wants the insurgency to be wiped out before her term ends, he said: "Yes, that would be one of her legacies," Andaya said.



SISON: Politically motivated to divert attention

693 cases filed all over RP; Joma says cover-up

From page A1

The charges were filed in municipal and regional trial courts in Bicol, the Visayas and in some provinces in Northern Luzon.

The rest of the other cases were expected to be filed in the next few weeks, the source said.

The official said Sison and the entire CPP leadership would also be charged criminally with killing suspected military informers and for the use by the NPA of women and children as combatants, a clear violation of the international convention on the rights of women and minors.

"How would these connect to Joma Sison? We will establish in court that these atrocities were committed in compliance with directives from him and the CPP leadership to intensify the revolution in the countryside," the official said.

Sison denies charges

Earlier, the INQUIRER reported based on its sources familiar with the matter that the Arroyo administration was also preparing to file murder charges against Sison and top CPP leaders, including Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, in connection with the killing of former CPP/NPA leaders Romulo Kintanar in 2003 and Arturo Tabara in 2004.

The killings of Kintanar and Tabara occurred in Quezon City but the administration plans to file the cases in the Netherlands, where Sison has lived in exile since 1987.

Saying he had no omnipotent powers, Sison yesterday denied he had anything to do with the killings of Kintanar and Tabara, or with other crimes ascribed to him by the government.

In a statement from his exile base in the Netherlands, Sison branded the allegations as "politically motivated and meant to deceive the people and divert their attention from the criminal culpabilities of the Arroyo regime for electoral fraud, corruption and rights violations."

'Acts of the revolution'

Sison said that while the CPP and the NPA had owned up to killing Kintanar and Tabara for their alleged crimes against "the revolutionary forces and the people," he was not involved in meting out the death sentences on the two.

"I should not be misrepresented as the omnipotent entity making decisions for the CPP and NPA," Sison said, adding he was only the chief political consultant of a National Democratic Front panel involved in peace negotiations with the government.

He said the deaths of Kintanar and Tabara were "acts of the revolution"

by the CPP and the NPA.

"By their official statements appearing in www.philippinerevolution.org and other publications, the CPP and the NPA have long admitted responsibility for giving battle to Kintanar and Tabara as armed and dangerous agents of the reactionary government, who committed serious crimes against the revolutionary forces and the people," Sison said.

Beyond RP's reach

Sison said the Philippine government had always tried to pin him down for rebellion and murder but these were "barefaced lies."

He said the supposed administration case against him would amount to nothing because he was "beyond the jurisdiction of the Philippine authorities under Philippine and international law."

"There is no extradition treaty between the Philippine and Dutch governments," he said. "I am also protected by the Refugee Convention and Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which prohibits the Dutch government from expelling me to anywhere I am in danger of torture and other ill treatment."

Sison said the accusations against him "will not draw away the attention of the people from the culpability of the Arroyo regime for the murder of more than 680 legal activists, the forced disappearance and torture of some hundreds more and the massive military assaults on the working people in the various regions."

Widows' version

Kintanar was a former New People's Army chief while Tabara was a former member of the CPP military commission and political bureau.

Both Kintanar and Tabara were breakaways from the mainstream CPP group identified with Sison.

In affidavits filed with the Department of Justice, Gloria Asuncion Jopson-Kintanar and Veronica Tabara, widows of the slain rebel leaders, admitted to having "personal knowledge" of the policies and modes of operation of the CPP-NPA and these included killing party members suspected of "counterrevolutionary activities," according to the INQUIRER sources.

Man behind pseudonyms

The two widows also categorically named Sison as the founder and chair of the CPP and the person behind the aliases "Amado Guerrero" and "Armando Liwanag."

The two women said they knew about Sison's role in the CPP/NPA as former members of the communist

movement from the '70s to the '90s.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said lawyers he had talked to called the government's plan to file murder charges in the Netherlands against Sison "a crazy idea."

"There has yet to be a precedent wherein a criminal case was filed against a political activist who's out of the country ... I think that this is just political propaganda," Ocampo said at a news forum.

Other militants react

"They just want to discredit Jose Maria Sison in his campaign to remove himself from the terrorist listing (of the United States and the European Union)," Ocampo said.

Other militant leaders also denounced the government's legal moves against Sison.

"This is harassment, plain and simple. It is another part of the government plan to attack the Left on all fronts, using all means foul and fair to prevent us from exposing the rottenness of this regime," said Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

The KMP is allied with the legal Left's umbrella group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, or Bayan, which is identified with the so-called, pro-Sison Reaffirmist faction within the leftist movement.

Laban ng Masa chair Francisco Nemenzo condemned the government's "cynical use" of the deaths of Kintanar and Tabara by attributing the recent wave of killings of militants to leftist internal conflicts.

Saying two to three years had already passed since the deaths of Kintanar and Tabara, Nemenzo added: "The revival of cases the government has long neglected to serve its current propaganda objectives speaks ill of our system of justice."

The leftist group split into factions in the early 1990s.

Party-list groups identified with the Reaffirmists, such as Bayan Muna, Gabriela and Anakpawis, hold six seats in Congress and are among the harshest critics of the Arroyo administration.

Appeal to the widows

Ramos urged the widows of Kintanar and Tabara not to be used by government.

"The Department of Justice is just capitalizing on your pain and anger, so that they can hurt the Left, even if they know that Prof. Sison has nothing to do with (the) supposed murders," the KMP leader said. With reports from Norman Bordadora, Luige A. del Puerto and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



DISSECTING FACTS ON HEPATITIS A

By: Dr. Anna Ong-Lim
Consultant,
Section of Infectious and Tropical Diseases in Pediatrics
Philippine General Hospital

Hepatitis is a general term referring to inflammation (swelling) of the liver. This disease can be caused by drugs or medications, exposure to chemicals in the environment, or even by inherited conditions. However, the more common cause of hepatitis in developing countries remains to be infectious agents, among which is a virus known as Hepatitis A.

The virus is more frequently transmitted where there are poor sanitary conditions. Taking water or food contaminated with stool which has the virus may lead to onset of the disease. This type of transmission is called "fecal-oral." Eating contaminated shellfish or improperly washed, raw fruits and vegetables also often spreads the virus.

Transmission has been reported through direct person to person contact in households where good personal hygiene is not observed. Sexual contact is also a means by which the virus can be transmitted.

The Hepatitis A virus can live outside the body for months, depending on environmental conditions. It can survive on kitchen counter tops for three to four hours at normal temperatures. The virus is killed by exposure to heat (85 degrees C) for one minute. However, it can still be spread from cooked food if this gets contaminated after cooking. Adequate chlorination of water usually kills any Hepatitis A virus that may get into the water supply.

Hepatitis A was thought to have been described long ago by Hippocrates, and what he saw then is similar to modern findings: fever, weakness, vomiting, and poor appetite. The patient is observed to have weight loss, dark urine, and yellowing of the skin (jaundice). Many patients complain of itches once jaundice sets in.

Unfortunately, school children (above 2 years) or productive adults are often the ones who suffer from these symptoms. These usually last less than 2 months but can persist for as long as 6 months. A small percentage of patients infected with hepatitis A risk serious complications like liver failure. These include people with previously diagnosed liver disease or those above 60 years old. On rare

occasions, hepatitis A has caused death ("fulminant hepatitis").

The average patient can miss up to five weeks of school or work due to the illness because there is no specific cure. Once diagnosed, patients can only be advised to rest and to consume foods high in protein. Intimate contact should be avoided so that spread to other household members can be minimized.

The Philippines is considered to be an area where hepatitis A is widespread. To avoid the disease and its complications, immunization with hepatitis A vaccine has been recommended by local and international medical societies. For children 12 months or older, the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines recommends that two doses be given 6-12 months apart. For adults, those who have tested negative for the disease may also be given two doses of the vaccine using the same schedule.

Hepatitis A vaccines are manufactured from inactivated virus particles, and therefore cannot cause disease in the vaccinated individual. The vaccine has proven to be safe and effective. Studies have shown that it can prevent infection in about 95% of people who are exposed. Experts believe that protection may last ten years or longer when the two-dose vaccine series is completed. There are generally no known side effects, except for some pain at the site of the injection.

For protection against vaccine preventable diseases, ask your doctor about the suitable vaccines for every member of the family, depending on their age and lifestyle. GSK Family Vaccines is partnering with the medical community, so more patients can discover their power to protect their loved ones inside and outside the home. Get more health information and advice on family protection through vaccination.



Romulo denies eyeing Washington posting

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOR THE NTH TIME, FOREIGN SECRETARY Alberto Romulo has denied that he was seeking or had been offered the post of Philippine ambassador to the United States.

And sources said the Washington post would go to Ambassador Willy Gaa, consul general in Los Angeles, when Ambassador Alberto del Rosario's resignation takes effect on July 8.

"The talk in Washington is that it will be Ambassador Gaa," said an INQUIRER source who asked not to be named because she was not authorized to talk about the appointment.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations and head of the Commission on Appointments panel that screens foreign service nominees, confirmed that Gaa was in the shortlist of nominees for the Philippines' most important diplomatic post.

"He's one of them," Santiago said when asked by the INQUIRER. But she said it was up to President Macapagal-Arroyo to announce the name of the No. 1 contender.

Ms Arroyo was Santiago's special guest at the party marking her 61st birthday last Thursday.

Baja

Santiago also confirmed that Ambassador Lauro Baja, the Philippines' permanent representative to the United Nations, wanted the Washington post.

Baja will soon be replaced by former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., but the latter's appointment has yet to be confirmed.

Sources said Baja was being endorsed by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and Gaa, the country's former ambassador to China, by newspaper publisher Maximo Soliven.

Romulo has expressed consternation at recurring news reports that he would be moved to Washington, an official close to him said.

Yesterday, Romulo—who was in Washington for the Philippine Independence Day rites there, told the official: "[The post] was not of-

fered to me. And if it were, I have no desire or inclination to take [it]. I would rather resign [from the Cabinet]."

The official said Romulo was content to stay on as foreign secretary.

Romulo has reportedly said that only a rich man could afford to take the Washington post because he has to subsidize the perks accorded to Filipino politicians visiting the United States.

Conflicting statements

On June 13, Malacanang said Del Rosario had quit, but the ambassador said he had been recalled.

An INQUIRER source said Del Rosario decided to quit when he learned from unofficial channels that he would be recalled because Malacanang had found a suitable replacement.

The source said Malacanang was looking for someone of Del Rosario's stature.

Romulo was to personally break the news to Del Rosario when he flew to the United States early this week. But Del Rosario apparently learned about Mala-

canang's plan before Romulo arrived.

Del Rosario had been wanting to quit since 2004 but Ms Arroyo had repeatedly prevailed upon him to stay on, the source said.

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GMA allies told to look at fraud evidence

STUNG BY CRITICISM from administration legislators for revealing the initial findings of a Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tape scandal, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said he was willing to brief Malacanang's "loyal defenders" on the allegedly damning evidence of fraud in the May 2004 elections.

"If they want to examine these pieces of evidence, they're free to do it. If they want extensive discussion on these pieces of evidence, they're welcome to it," he told reporters.

Biazon said the investigating committee on national defense, which he chairs, had "strong and conclusive evidence" that there was "massive cheating" to favor President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This proof was in the form of "testimonies, documents and material physical pieces of evidence," he said.

He promised the administration congressmen that they would be allowed to present their own evidence at the briefing or disprove the evidence already in the hands of the committee.

"I do hope that they refrain from using insults. Like now I am being called a voodoo practitioner, irresponsible, publicity-hungry and other such unflattering description. Let me show them the evidence anytime," Biazon said.

The President's allies in the House of Representatives rebuked Biazon the other day for the premature release of his committee's findings before the committee could vote on its report and present it to the plenary.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay branded it as "speculative assessment" by a "publicity-hungry" senator. Lakas-CMD Representatives Exequiel Javier and Marcelino Libanan accused the Senate of practicing "voodoo politics," TJ Burganio



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MCLE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

10-14 July 2006

Date	Subject	MCLE Credit Units	Lecturers
10 July (Monday)	Effective Availment of Modes of Discovery (Substantive/Procedural Law)	Three (3) units (9:00-12:15)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
	Problem Areas in Criminal Law & Procedure (Substantive/Procedural Law)	Three (3) units (1:00-4:15)	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
11 July (Tuesday)	The Significance of the Lawyer's Oath (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) units (9:00-12:15)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
	International Commercial Arbitration (Alternative Dispute Resolution)	Three (3) units (1:00-4:00)	Dean Custodio O. Paralede
	Court-Annexed, Court-Referenced & CA Mediation (Alternative Dispute Resolution)	Two (2) units (4:15-6:15)	Prof. Rowena E.V. Daray-Morales
12 July (Wednesday)	The Amendment & Revision of the Constitution (MCLE Committee Prescribed)	Three (3) units (9:00-12:15)	Justice Vicente Y. Mendoza
	Trial Techniques (Pre-Trial & Trial Skills)	Four (4) units (1:00-5:15)	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
13 July (Thursday)	Starting Points in Legal Research & Writing (Legal Writing)	Four (4) units (8:00-12:15)	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano
	Learning the Rules of Electronic Evidence (MCLE Committee Prescribed)	Three (3) units (1:00-4:15)	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
14 July (Friday)	Problem Areas in Legal Ethics (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) units (9:00-12:15)	Atty. Ma. Tanya A. Lal
	WTO-GATTs (International Law)	Two (2) units (1:00-3:00)	Prof. Maricel MVE. Leonen
	DNA & the Courts (Substantive/Procedural Law)	Three (3) units (3:15-6:15)	Judge Nirmala Cuesta-Vilches
Total		36 units	

- REGISTRATION FEE: ₱7,000.00/package or ₱750.00/session (morning session or afternoon session) The fee is inclusive of snacks, MCLE Certificates of Attendance and lecture materials. NO LUNCH.
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DAR identifies new Gov't offensive on Joma a 'fight vs terror' lands for CARP

By Christine Gaylican

TO JUSTIFY its bid for a five-year extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, the Department of Agrarian Reform yesterday said it has identified 500,000 hectares of new private and public agricultural lands for distribution to farmers under CARP.

"This gives us more leverage in justifying in Congress that CARP should be extended until maybe the year 2012 to 2013," Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said in a recent press briefing.

CARP is set to expire in 2008. There is now a pending bill in Congress to extend the program.

Pangandaman said that some 130,000 hectares were targeted for distribution by DAR this year.

Now on its 18th year of implementation, the CARP has distributed 3.7 million hectares of agricultural lands to farmer-beneficiaries nationwide. However, 590,000 hectares are still pending for distribution.

Legal obstacles, however, have hindered the swift implementation of CARP in recent years.

The Foodfirst Information and Action Network-Philippines (Fian) said judicial obstruction has become a major problem for farmers who have certificates of land ownership but could not take over the lands due to court orders.

"The current situation of agrarian reform now is slow and hampered by judicial obstruction and lack of political will. It's worse than before, especially in the level of the regional trial courts and Court of Appeals," Fian's Manuel Quiambao said in a forum.

Quiambao noted that since last year, municipal and regional trial courts, and the Court of Appeals have been exempting or excluding haciendas already identified for CARP coverage.

The Court of Appeals, for example, excluded the 500-hectare

sugar plantation owned by former Sen. Rene Espina in Tanjay City, Negros Oriental, from CARP coverage in a ruling issued in February.

The court decision displaced some 200 peasant farmers and effectively barred them from harvesting the rice and other food crops they planted in the lands earlier awarded to them.

"The Court of Appeals seems to be the body being used nowadays by landowners to block agrarian reform," Fian said in a statement.

Fian noted that land distribution under CARP has decreased significantly under the Arroyo administration, with the government distributing only 105,000 hectares in 2001, 111,000 hectares in 2002 and 97,000 in 2003.

In contrast, under President Fidel Ramos, an average of 314,000 hectares of land was distributed annually, and under President Joseph Estrada, 135,000 hectares, Fian said.

Eddie Lopez, president of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula, said even the DAR Adjudication Board has reversed its decision to place around 18,000 hectares of coconut plantation in Quezon province under CARP.

Quiambao said only around 15 percent of 370,000 hectares of sugar lands in Negros have been distributed under CARP while some 700,000 hectares of coconut plantations in the Philippines have yet to be placed under CARP despite their eligibility.

"And we haven't even mentioned the haciendas owned by Cojuangcos, Florendos, Lorenzos, Sebastians... The landowners are appealing to the higher courts to stop the (CARP) implementation, and we all know litigation takes years," Quiambao said.

He said the recent Supreme Court decision on the Roberto Cuenca case, saying lower courts have no jurisdiction over CARP cases was the only positive court ruling so far.

MALACANANG YESTERDAY backed police and military efforts to prosecute exiled rebel chief Jose Maria Sison, accusing him of instigating terror in the Philippines by remote control.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said prosecuting Sison was meant to expose the Communist Party of the Philippines founder as an "enemy of democracy and freedom."

In a statement, Bunye described

the government's legal offensive against Sison as a "fight against terror and dictatorship as it is a fight for democracy and justice."

"For too long, the leadership of the revolutionary left has sought refuge in a foreign land while commanding and controlling the agents of terror in the Philippines engaged in murder, extortion, the use of child soldiers and the deployment of land mines."

Bunye also said: "We are confident that as this case moves forward, he (Sison) will eventually be exposed as the enemy of democracy and freedom that he really is rather than the oppressed political refugee that he portrays himself."

Malacanang also reaffirmed its support for the decision by developed countries to include Sison, the CPP and the New People's

Army on their lists of global terrorist organizations.

"The global community, including the United States and the European Union, are our strong allies against terror and both Mr. Sison and the NPA are on their lists," Bunye said.

Sison has vigorously denounced his and his group being labeled as terrorists. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Bayan Muna solons ready to run for Senate

From page A1
party and the Senate was the lack of funds.

"Many of our allies are suggesting that we run for the Senate. However, the type of electoral campaign for such a position requires hundreds of millions of pesos. We don't have that amount of money," Ocampo said at the weekly Kapitan sa Newsdesk in Quezon City.

"There are also invitations for us to be a guest candidate in a party slate," he added.

Casino also said Bayan Muna was considering running for the Senate, except that money was "a huge obstacle."

"But as far as nationwide party machinery and political foundation are concerned, Bayan Muna already has what it takes," he said.

Asked if the party was ripe for the Senate, Casino said categorically: "Yes."

Crucial stage

According to Ocampo, the present time is "a crucial stage" in Philippine politics.

"There is a trend, after the long battle with the Marcos dictatorship, to allow political dissenters to participate [in the parliamentary struggle]," he said.

But officials like National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales want Bayan Muna and other leftist political groups out of mainstream politics, Ocampo said.

"That's the reason cases have been filed against us," he said, referring to the charge of rebellion

filed against him, Casino and four other militant party-list representatives.

"[The government has] no case of rebellion against us. But now there is the brutal killing of our members," he said.

Ocampo urged journalists "to watch the coming developments."

"Rightists are holding court, and in the process they are subverting what they say they uphold," he added.

Gonzales' PDSP

Ocampo said the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) headed by Gonzales had twice been thwarted in its effort to make it in the party-list race.

"It twice ran in the party-list elections but failed to muster the required 300,000 votes [for party-list representation]," he said.

On the other hand, Bayan Muna got 1.7 million votes in 2001 and 1.2 million votes in 2004. (See What Went Before.)

"We had less votes in 2004 because Bayan Muna expanded its base" and parts of its constituency voted for its allied party-list groups, Casino said, adding that the coalition now included Anakpawis, Gabriela, the overseas Filipino workers group Migrante, and the Bangsamoro advocacy group Suara.

He said the Left's presence in the House had likewise expanded to six—three from Bayan Muna (Ocampo, Joel Virador and himself) two from Anakpawis (Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mari-

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Twice No. 1

AS EARLY AS 1987, leftist activists have tried to enter mainstream politics.

In that year, months after he was freed from prison, former New People's Army chief Bernabe "Kumander Dante" Buscayno and six others—Nella Sancho, Crispin Beltran, Romeo Capulong, Horacio Morales Jr., Jaime Tadeo and Jose Burgos Jr.—ran for seats in the Senate under the militant Partido ng Bayan in the first national elections held after Edsa I.

But all seven lost. Fourteen years later, the political party Bayan Muna emerged topnotcher in the 2001 party-list

elections with 1.7 million votes, allowing Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza and Beltran seats in the House of Representatives.

Beltran and Maza resigned from Bayan Muna in 2003 to help form their own party-list groups—Anakpawis and Gabriela Women's Party, respectively. They were replaced in Bayan Muna by Joel Virador and Siegfred Dedura.

In the 2004 elections, Bayan Muna garnered 1.2 million votes, making it the topnotcher for the second time.

Ocampo, its president, Virador and Teodoro Casino now represent it in the House. *Minerva Generalan and Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

ano) and one from Gabriela (Liza Maza).

Morale high

Both Ocampo and Casino said the morale of Bayan Muna members remained high despite the series of unsolved killings and the political persecution of their ranks.

They said the issue was discussed at Bayan Muna's national council meeting two weeks ago.

"The killings have had an immediate yet temporary effect in the pace of the organization because we have given instructions to our organizers to be wary," Ocampo said.

"Of course, if there's an assassination in one area, our organizers

have to lie low. But the determination to press for our rights remains," he said.

'Traacherous killings'

With neither arms nor means to secure themselves with bodyguards, Ocampo said Bayan Muna's counteroffensive had been to expose "the treacherous killings, the gross violation of human rights."

"The results have been good. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has spoken [against the unsolved killings]. The Commission on Human Rights has also issued a strong statement," Ocampo said.

High court stops Luisita distribution to farmers

From page A1

sion or revocation of said agreement."

Violation

Thus, he said the planned government takeover of Hacienda Luisita for distribution to farmers was violative of the "constitutional protection against the impairment of contractual rights and obligations and deprivation of its (HLL) property without due process of law."

Elma pointed out that the SDOA had been approved by PARC itself on Nov. 21, 1989 after 5,498 hacienda workers out of a total 6,296 opted to be part of it.

In a follow-up referendum conducted by the DAR on Oct. 14, 1989, 5,117 out of a total 5,315 farmworkers-beneficiaries opted to receive shares in HLL and only 132 preferred land distribution, he explained.

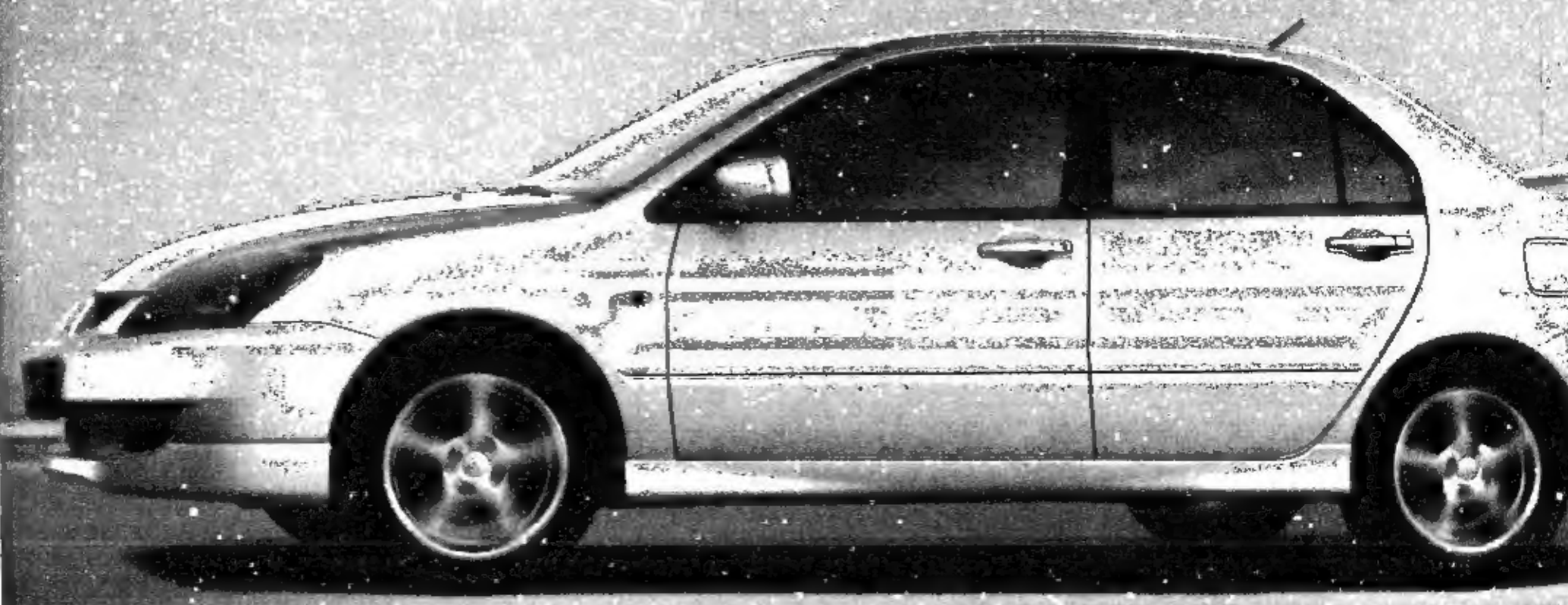
Under the said SDOA, P3 billion in salaries, wages and fringe benefits representing 3 percent of the gross sales of the production of agricultural land had been handed to the farmworker/beneficiaries, HLL said.

In the petition, Elma asked the high court to resolve the issue of "whether PARC and Pangandaman have the jurisdiction, power" and "authority to nullify, recall, revoke or rescind the SDOA."

With AFP report

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Mild quake jolts Zambo

A MODERATE 4.9-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE shook the southern Philippines yesterday but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, officials said.

The epicenter of the quake was just off the coast of the Zamboanga peninsula, about 110 km north of Zamboanga City, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a statement.

The quake hit at 3:24 a.m. and sent objects swaying in nearby towns, although

there were no reports of panic, damage or injuries.

The Philippines sits on what is commonly referred to as the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.

Although about five quakes hit the Philippines every day, few are felt. Only three major, destructive tremors have been recorded in more than 30 years, according to the institute.

Pinoy or not, Asi must pay millions in taxes—BIR

From page A1

When the BIR filed its complaint, however, it failed to cite the exact amount of Taulava's income earned here and the amount of taxes he should pay. Neither did the DOJ charge sheet detailed his tax dues.

State Prosecutor Ma. Cristina A. Montero-Barrot, who recommended the filing of the case before the Court of Tax Appeals, said that Taulava, whether he is half-Filipino or not, should pay taxes for income he had earned here.

Taulava, who was born in Tonga, is a member of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s (PLDT) Talk 'N Text team.

Montero-Barrot said that "it is undisputed that [Taulava], being an alien prior to being recognized as [a] Filipino citizen on June 21, whether a resident or not, who derived income from sources within the Philippines, is legally obliged to pay or [be] subject to income taxes."

Income made in RP

She said this was pursuant to the provision of the NIRC stating that an "alien individual, whether a resident or not of the Philippines, is taxable only on income derived from sources within the Philippines."

Based on information from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Taulava started to earn income in the Philippines in 1998 when he was engaged by DDS Productmakers to play in their Bln Detergent team where he received P300,000 every month.

In 1999, Adidas Phils. Inc. paid him P1 million to endorse the company's products, and from 1999 to 2001, Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel) engaged his services as a "skilled professional athlete" to play for their team in the Philippine Basketball Association.

He inked a contract to play with the PLDT team from June 1, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2005.

Unaware of tax laws

In his defense, Taulava claimed that from 1999 to 2003, his employers deducted P3,762,466.67 in taxes "withheld at source."

He also said that since he was

IN THE KNOW

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RE-voiced Paul "Asi" Taulava's certificate of recognition as a Filipino in 1999 because of discrepancies in Taulava's birth certificate and that of his mother's.

The basketball star claimed that his mother was a Filipina and his father was a Tongan, making him half-Filipino and half-Tongan.

His birth certificate, however, showed that his mother was born in Vautu, Tonga. But the birth certificate of Taulava's mother indicated she was born in San Jose, Northern Samar.

Based on the DOJ decision, the Bureau of Immigration ordered Taulava's summary deportation.

The athlete appealed his case and on Feb. 2, 2000, Taulava's mother, Paulina Hernandez Mateald Taulava, testified before the BI Board of Commissioners that she was born in Samar in 1950, and that she was still a Filipino when her son was born in 1973. Mrs. Taulava became a naturalized Tongan citizen only in 1976.

However, the BI declared Taulava ineligible to play with any team and eventually had him blacklisted.

Taulava left the country on May 11, 2000. He returned in June 2001 and submitted documents signed by witnesses attesting that Taulava's mother was Filipino and that the Hernandez clan existed in Cataman and San Jose in Samar. Then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez reversed DOJ's earlier decision and recognized Taulava as a Filipino.

On Aug. 7, 2003, the Senate Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports, headed by the late Sen. Robert



TAULAVA FILE PHOTO

Barbers released a report which found the documents submitted by Taulava as fake. The committee urged the BI to deport the basketball star.

In June 2005, the Court of Appeals upheld the Filipino citizenship of Taulava. In their decision, the justices said that "Taulava's natural-born citizenship was already recognized by the BI Board of Commissioners, which enjoys the presumption of regularity in the performance of their duties."

A few months later, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez sought for Taulava's deportation and cancellation of his Filipino citizenship because his documents and birth certificate were fake.

On Nov. 3, 2005, Taulava asked the Supreme Court to junk Gonzalez's petition. *Mel Lawrence de Gusman, PDI Research*

"raised and had lived in the US since birth, he was not familiar nor was he aware of the intricacies of the tax laws when he came to the Philippines in 1998 as a 25-year-old aspiring basketball player," and had "relied heavily" on his business manager Ricardo Santos.

Taulava added that he had "relied on his employer (Piltel and PLDT) who were legally obliged to file the correct or proper withholding tax re-

turns" on his behalf.

However, the DOJ said: "Non-familiarity with our tax laws cannot be made an excuse for non-compliance with the provisions of the NIRC of 1997."

Taulava's failure to file his annual income tax returns for "six consecutive years, from 1998 to 2003, is indicative of his willful intent to cheat the government of its due taxes," the DOJ added.

2 more firms face tax raps

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue yesterday filed separate charges of tax evasion against two corporations—one engaged in the sale of computers and heavy equipment and another in motoring—for allegedly defrauding the government of millions of pesos in unpaid taxes.

One World Multi-Industries and its president and treasurer, Johnny Co, were charged with evading the payment of some P445.8 million in taxes. The BIR said it received an anonymous e-mail urging the agency to examine the records of the company.

One World was found to have no record of tax returns from 2001 to 2003. It filed returns in 2000 but claimed it had no operations.

In the second case, the BIR charged Sun Motors Industries Development Corp., the exclusive distributor of "Skywing and Skystar" Chinese-made scooters and motorcycles for non-payment of taxes amounting to P6.3 million. Also charged were the company's president, also named Johnny Co, treasurer Rascell Labindeo and executive assistant Patrick Hocchuan.

The investigation was also spurred by an e-mailed tip.

The BIR said that Sun Motors had overstated its deductions by claiming fictitious domestic purchases amounting to P5.39 million. *C. Baluna N. Flores*

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OPINION

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Full disclosure

THERE WAS MASSIVE CHEATING DURING THE 2004 elections and the cheater greatly benefited from it, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Wednesday. The cheating was concentrated in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and its end-result was that President Macapagal-Arroyo was credited with at least 662,00 more votes than she actually got.

EDITORIAL Did the cheating alter the outcome of the elections? Biazon would not say, but he pointed out that this was not what the Senate investigation sought to establish. "We are not trying to prove who won, but definitely the cheating benefited GMA," he said.

The Senate committee on national defense headed by Biazon has conducted seven hearings on the "Hello Garci" controversy since August last year. While top civilian and military officials were barred from testifying by Executive Order 464, Biazon said there was enough oral and written evidence to warrant the conclusion of rampant cheating in the polls. "My initial evaluation of the testimony and evidence points to massive cheating," he said.

Malacañang and its allies say, however, that Biazon is flogging a dead horse. "The senator is trying to revive an issue that the public is tired of and wants to leave behind," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "Pure hallucination," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay. "He (Biazon) should not have issued that statement when they do not have enough evidence to back up their claims."

But if Biazon's disclosure proves anything, it's that the issue is not dead and buried as the administration wants it to be. And indeed it would be a sad day for Philippine democracy if Filipinos grow weary of the issue and choose to forget about it like a bad dream.

Since the "Hello Garci" scandal broke a year ago, nothing has been explained, nothing has been cleared, nothing has been settled. Instead, the administration has mounted a massive cover-up, beginning with administration allies in the House of Representatives making short shrift of an impeachment complaint directly linking the President to allegations of election fraud and tampering with election returns. When the Senate opened an inquiry into the controversy, Malacañang tried to block it by forbidding military and civilian officials from appearing before the Biazon committee. After the Supreme Court declared EO 464 unconstitutional, Malacañang insisted on enforcing the gag order, pending the resolution of its appeal. It's obvious that instead of helping clear up the issue, the administration is employing every trick in the book to evade it or hide it.

All these attempts at a cover-up have not lifted the cloud of illegitimacy over the Arroyo presidency. Instead, they only make the President look guilty. To the public, there can be no more eloquent testimony to prove the President's guilt than the administration's refusal to confront the issue. And for as long as it refuses to do so, this crisis of legitimacy will hound Ms Arroyo until the end of her presidency and beyond. For unless the truth is told about what transpired between Ms Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and the things they talked about, the administration is not going to hear the last about this scandal. Without full disclosure, there can be no closure to this disgraceful episode.

U-turn by US

CONSIDERING THAT US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH SELDOM changes his political course, or even admits errors, the new American attitude toward the talks with Iran is remarkable.

If the Americans sit down at the same table as the Iranians, we're talking about the first high level contacts in a generation between the Islamic state and the world's sole remaining superpower.

FOREIGN COMMENT For the United States, it will be a considerable U-turn as the clerical regime for many years has been seen as an important supporter of international terrorism.

The change of course has been brought on by the solidarity between the great powers regarding the Iranian nuclear arms plans flustering and in danger of collapse.

The reality is that President Bush must see that the Iranians have exploited the disagreement about the course between the United States and Britain on one side and Russia and China on the other.

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Dangerous diversions

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

unfeeling as to forgive their terrible sins and allow them to evade their just retribution.

It seems improbable if not ludicrous to connect their misdeeds to the entertainment industry that is apparently uninvolved in the serious problems of the country. But while it may appear that its only purpose is to amuse the bakya crowd, a closer look will reveal the sinister consequence of its dangerous diversions.

Let us remember that the entertainment industry was the most submissive and noisiest barker of the Marcos dictatorship. Its principal figures competed with each other in shamelessly toadying to the rulers in Malacañang and their shameful sycophants. With only a few courageous exceptions, the entertainers obsequiously displayed their bootlicking for the despot, who rewarded them with generous favors, including monetary grants and appointments to high offices. Many of these beneficiaries are still active today in their adjustable career.

It is this industry that has remained, among the shady elements of our society, as the most pervasive and persuasive influence on the mostly unthinking masses who constitute the voting majority of our people. If many of our citizens have not been exercising their suffrages properly, it is because they have been misguided principally by the practitioners of the entertainment industry.

Benjamin Franklin said that if the people misuse their suffrages, the remedy is not to withdraw the precious privilege from them but

to teach them in its proper use. The entertainment industry, which has the most available access to the people through the movies, television, radio and the tabloids, is instead purposely miseducating them.

The Philippine entertainment industry is not only a vast wasteland, as television has been described in America, but a vicious instrument for the abatement of the nation's intelligence. The shows it offers for the supposed recreation of the people are generally vulgar and smutty, usually with some little moral lesson inserted to make them look respectable, but offensive nonetheless. On the whole, they are obnoxious and unwholesome and deserve to be trashed.

The indiscriminate audience eagerly laps them up because it has not been taught to be selective and more demanding of better quality shows for their pastime. In fact, the easily satisfied fans have been taught the exact opposite reaction—to accept whatever garbage the industry offers them and, to add insult to their injury, to pay for it too.

The leaders of the entertainment industry are supposed to be responsible people but they have evaded their duty to elevate the taste of their mostly unthinking supporters. They have instead cheapened them into a mass of automated individuals whose ultimate joy is to roll up in the aisles at the lewd jokes of potential senators.

Who are the voters who have elevated dubious entertainers, past and present, to high public positions? It is the idolaters of show-biz personalities who have proved that entertainers in general, with their limited talents and exaggerated ambitions, are better suited to the box office than to the public office they have polluted and debased.

So, am I being intolerant for blaming the entertainment industry for degrading our electorate? Pardon me for speaking the truth.

Kerfuffle

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

adolescents be addressed in a way that will allow them to make an informed choice. Which is what the module tries to do. And I am pretty sure that anyone who reads the material will agree that it is a pretty effective way of extending that information and encouraging adolescents to make the better choices. Unless, of course, one is predisposed to find fault from the beginning, and is willing to use imagination to do so.

It is not perfect, certainly—but neither does it deserve the savage criticism leveled against it, specifically by one Angelita Miguel-Aguirre, M.D., in a letter to acting Education Secretary Fe Hidalgo—which letter sparked the whole kerfuffle. And the material surely does not deserve to be relegated to the dustbin—as it has been—by Secretary Hidalgo, who ordered the material to be withdrawn upon orders (this is grapevine) from Malacañang.

Who is this Dr. Aguirre, whose letter caused the demise of a much-needed program? Her letter, written on a stationery of the Makati Medical Center Department of Medicine, shows her as "Training Officer and Chair, Committee on Biotechnology, Department of Medicine, Makati Medical Center and Makati Medical Society." But she also has been identified in the media as being with the Human Life International, a core group of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

So I also read Dr. Aguirre's letter. Carefully. And I must say that Luz Tancangco, who has earned the reputation of jumping to conclusions

across chasms of illogic, may have more than met her match in the field of bioethics.

Let me illustrate. Aguirre begins her letter by claiming that the module is actively promoting "value free sex education" (emphasis hers). "It claims to foster values, restraint and responsibility, yet it implies that sexual activity out of marriage maybe (sic) acceptable for as long as it does not result to (sic) 'unwanted pregnancy' and STI by protected sex." In other words, she is damning the material not for what it shows directly (a lot of the lesson plans involve discussing or illustrating values, or illustrate rather graphically what happens when a certain choice is made as in pictures of STIs, or disadvantages of "going steady") but for what it implies. And the implication she draws is weak: that premarital sex may be acceptable (as opposed to is acceptable). That's really stretching.

Aguirre's exaggerations dot the letter. Condoms, in the DepEd module, are mentioned in the context of STIs (by the way, abstinence is also included in that list of preventive actions—the safest sex being no sex). No claim is made that condoms assure safe sex. The description is "safer" sex. And no one, with the possible exception of Aguirre, can deny that using condoms is more effective than not using condoms at all to prevent STIs. What is more, nowhere in the module is the use of condoms for birth control even mentioned (in fact, birth control methods is not even a topic). Yet Aguirre's letter makes a federal case out of it.

Then there is Aguirre's assertion that the rationale for the module is supposed to be—and she quotes—"overpopulation and poverty." Again, this is nowhere in the module.

And yet, because of these exaggerations and accusations, fanned in the media (where the assertion was made that the program would be implemented nationally this school year), the pilot testing of these modules has been stopped, thus condemning our young to ignorance and its consequences.

Senators draw ire of 1.7 million-strong ULAP

THE SENATE CROSSED SWORDS WITH THE administration when it decided to cut P64 billion from the 2006 budget. President Macapagal-Arroyo said she would veto the budget unless the cuts were restored. But the veto didn't happen as the House panel in the bicameral conference committee adopted her stand, resulting in a deadlock. As a result, the government now operates on a reenacted budget.

The senators' intransigence has provoked the 1.7 million-strong Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines into threatening the reelectionists among them. Ulap members, which include all governors and mayors down to barangay officials, threaten to withhold support from the senators in the 2007 elections "if they insist on playing hardball politics at the expense of countryside development."

Ulap is very much aggrieved because most of the P64-billion cut from the budget would go to infrastructure and development projects in the rural areas, among them the P5-billion Kilos Asenso Fund. Another P3 billion would fund the construction of roads, school buildings as well as water and electric facilities in 1,000 conflict-ridden barangays.

The senators, who must campaign nationwide, are entirely dependent on the support of Ulap. If the latter unites against them, their chances of reelection would be seriously affected.

I can understand the local officials' grievance. Recall that the 2005 budget was just a few billions shy of P1 trillion, which is the budget for 2006. If the senators feel that the 2006 budget is excessive, why did they pass the 2005 budget?

At the height of the war over the budget, I overheard some House members say they could understand if a few billion pesos were lopped off by the senators, but to take away P64 billion would cripple the administration's anti-poverty program. Is this the aim of the senators? Come 2007, they will have a lot of explaining to do to the people.

The huge budget cut could trigger a stronger

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



push from the LGUs for a unicameral legislature in the likely event that a referendum is held later this year. The people's initiative received a recent big boost when former President Fidel V. Ramos threw his support behind it. There seems to be an all-out war now between the senators and local officials, including members of the House.

Recently, I cited the opinion of various foreign investment firms that our economic fundamentals are sound and on track, but the complaint is often heard that the benefits of sound economics has not trickled down to the masses, who remain poor. At the opening ceremony of the First Philippines-China Economic Partnership at the Manila Hotel last June 5, Speaker Jose de Venecia sought to tackle this problem as he sought a number of concessions from Chinese officials, led by Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai. But he reserved his strongest plea for China to put up "housing factories" in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. JDV sought to persuade the Chinese to build one million low-cost houses "so that the benefit of RP development could reach and be felt by the great masses of our people." He also asked the Chinese to build 75,000 to 100,000 schoolhouses so we could put an end to the perennial classroom shortage.

The beauty of housing and classroom construction is that it jumpstarts some 60 allied industries—from the manufacture of wood to cement, nails, GI sheets and electrical material to tiles and décor items. It also creates tens of thousands of jobs in various fields. Nothing beats housing and JDV realizes this only too well.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes' decision to give Lafayette Mining a 30-day trial run to

prove it can operate its zinc and copper mine on Rapu-Rapu Island without violating environmental standards is eliciting a lot of praise. Recall that Lafayette was suspended for seven months after two cyanide spills late last year. The government imposed as a condition for a new permit that the company put in place new safeguards and pay a P10.4-million fine. But this did not prevent demands from various militant groups not only to close down Lafayette for good, but also to repeal the Mining Law. Luckily, sensible heads prevailed, and a trial run was conceived. As Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, in whose province Lafayette operates, opined, "Allowing (the mining firm) to tentatively resume operations is an example of government's resolve to forge a viable balance between progress and ecology."

I've always stressed that our country has to exploit, jointly with foreign investors, our vast mineral wealth, estimated at \$1 trillion, in order to rescue our people from the bondage of poverty. But this has to be done in a manner that provides adequate protection to the national patrimony and promotes the welfare of our citizens.

Employers who wish to give their househelp a chance at self-improvement, which can at the same time benefit their homes and families, can enroll them in Punsalan School's home skills training program. Punsalan, a government-recognized and multi-awarded school dedicated to uplifting the plight of househelpers, is located at M. Paterno Street in San Juan, Metro Manila. It is offering a 10-month program for househelp, which includes cooking, both local and international cuisine, housekeeping and auxiliary services such as setting the table, serving wines, etc., values education and doctrinal formation, and very basic English. They will also take a few cultural trips. The home skills program, which costs P1,000 a month per student, will be divided into two groups, one held every Wednesday, starting July 5, and the other every Friday, starting July 7, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For particulars, call Lolit Pascasio, Punsalan adviser for home skills, at 726-0581 and 726-0582.

A doomed flight and a sex pioneer

FOUR AIRPLANES, ALL DOMESTIC AMERICAN commercial flights, were hijacked by members of the al-Qaida on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. All but one reached their destinations—two ramming the twin towers of the World Trade Center in Manhattan, and another crashing into the Pentagon. The only flight that failed to reach its target, apparently the US Capitol, crashed instead in a field in Pennsylvania. This was United Airlines Flight 93.

What happened that morning, and on board the United flight, is told in the movie "United 93," a story, recounted documentary-style, that brings those hours of tension and confusion to life—and the moviegoer into the plane itself—sharing the feelings that must have engulfed United 93's 40 passengers and crew, all of whom perished in the crash.

It would have been so easy for the filmmakers to follow the trajectory of most disaster movies—setting up the characters and giving us their back stories to make them more empathetic, recreating a horrific disaster, then tracking the protagonists' gradual rise to heroism, if not martyrdom. But director and screenwriter Paul Greengrass doesn't seem interested in creating a blockbuster flick with cardboard characters and a predictable structure. Though we all know how it ends, the movie still manages to draw us in and engage our emotions, and lets us see the humanity: Yes, including the four al-Qaida members, especially the leader of the cell who is shown calling up someone on his cell phone just before boarding and telling that person "I love you."

I ESPECIALLY appreciated Greengrass' decision to field unknown actors, including some of the actual people on the ground that day. The use of the actual flight controllers and commanders gives "United 93" a sense of authenticity and immediacy, an honest recreation of the confusion, shock and frustration felt by everyone trying to make sense of the unimaginable events of the day.

The movie certainly reveals a lot about the bureaucratic snafus that mired the American government's attempts to thwart the terrorists. Most amusing is the frequent plaint of the mili-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



tary command center chief who can't seem to contact President Bush who is "missing in action," and whose permission is needed before Air Force jets can be authorized to fire on a civilian target.

Greengrass makes no ideological or, indeed, even emotional points. Meticulously tracing what transpired on board "United 93" from transcripts of the cockpit flight recorder and of phone conversations, he instead presents ordinary people rising above their own fear and confusion and forging an alliance that foils the hijackers. But I was most touched by scenes of the passengers calling up their families, telling them over and over—"Whatever happens, remember that I love you." No one was thinking of business or daily concerns that day, but only of grabbing one last chance to tell others of their love, a love that apparently transcends time and death.

IN TRYING to get a grip on questions of sexuality, people of all ages have one question uppermost in their minds: "Is it normal?" Whether the matter at hand is about masturbation or penis size, ambivalent sexuality or unusual positions, people are concerned about how they compare with others, whether their feelings, urges, proclivities or desires are the norm, or if these place them in the category of "abnormal," "queer," "immoral" or, as the more strident would put it, "an abomination before God."

This was the question most often put to Alfred Kinsey in the 1940s. At that time a professor of biology at Indiana University, Kinsey pioneered a "marriage course" that sought to debunk the myths and moralizing then surrounding sex, and to examine it

from a strictly scientific and behavioral viewpoint. But when confronted with the question "Is it normal?" once too many times, Kinsey realized that there was no serious, scientific and objective study on which he could base a satisfactory answer.

The result of Kinsey's "ah-ha!" moment was the publication in 1948 of a book called "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male," followed by its counterpart "Sexual Behavior in the Human Female." Both books were the result of a groundbreaking and sweeping study, based on detailed interviews with thousands of respondents all across the United States. When the books first came out, the media compared their impact with the atom bomb, at once shocking with its provocative findings on sexual practices and preferences; and at the same time reassuring with its accounts of how common some of the more worrisome matters actually were.

"KINSEY," written and directed by Bill Condon, paints a portrait of the man who revolutionized the study of sexual behavior. As portrayed by Liam Neeson, Kinsey was the son of a repressive and controlling father who found personal freedom in the study of nature, and made science—with its key values of disinterested observation and reliance on fact—his object of devotion.

But his tenacity and dedication was also enabled and inspired by his wife Clara, whom he fondly called "Mac" (a luminous and nuanced portrayal by Laura Linney) and his inner circle of researchers, who not only shared his dedication to the cause but also took part in experiments in shared sex, all in pursuit of Kinsey's latter thesis that sex was a mere biological need that could be divorced from emotion or communion.

This was, of course, a controversial stance and Kinsey would become, in time, a controversial figure courting the wrath of social conservatives. But "Kinsey" the movie proves an amazingly entertaining, engrossing and, quite unexpectedly, funny portrait of a man who considered himself mainly a scientist and ended up a sexual provocateur.

Dancing

IT IS A FACT WELL-SETTLED THAT SOME GUYS JUST can't dance. Unfortunately, I belong to this group of poor old chaps who can only sit in a corner, helplessly staring at the more gifted ones prancing away with some prize partners, wishing all the while that it's possible to switch shoes (and abilities). Trust me when I say that I've tried about as much and as hard as anybody else, without success. The last time I displayed my dancing talents onstage was during my junior year in high school. A classmate approached me afterwards to say in hushed, stiff tones that I resembled a bewildered robot skidding off course. And that's when I finally decided it's about time I gave my clumsy old self a well-deserved break.

No matter how lousy I can be with dance steps, I wasn't exactly born with two left feet. You see, the art of dancing seems to run in the family. My parents can do a mean step or two, my siblings can follow the beat, and for one of my aunts, well, dancing is her life. My precocious childhood even had its own, share of jiggling and wiggling, carefully preserved in photo frames and providing evidence for the whole story. There I am in the foreground during kindergarten days, grinning and eagerly leading the class in song-and-dance numbers.

Now, I suppose I can still do the singing part just fine, but the dancing aspect seems to have vanished altogether. What has happened to me since then?

Perhaps it had something to do with how I prioritized things as I moved on to grade school. At that time, the premiums were high for skills in speaking, singing, the visual arts and academics. Being the insufferable perfectionist that I was (and sometimes still am), I vigorously pursued each of these disciplines and even attempted to excel in all of them. Sometimes dancing was required, but only on very rare occasions, and since I didn't see it as a necessity, it was shoved further and further down my checklist of talents to hone as the years rolled by.

In high school, my focus was trained on studies and the activities of various school organizations. This meant even less of cha-cha and carterwheels. Only after some time did I realize that I was no longer the one performing and had been reduced to a lowly spectator whenever shake-your-thing numbers entered the scene. I was headed for a non-dancing future.

Fast forward to college. Just when I thought nothing out of the ordinary was going to take place in college, I found myself in the second sem of my second year and enrolled in a social dancing class for my PE. You can just imagine how reluctant I was to stuff my stuff for a grade. But dreading the prospect of flunking my first course (and presumably one that everybody pass with no sweat), I was left with no choice but to convince myself that it was going to be fun and that things wouldn't be so bad after all.

Optimists often credit half of the learning process to a positive attitude. In much the same way, sufficient warm-up provides an athlete with the maximum power to come up with a stellar performance. Though I am sure I never managed to dance exquisitely enough to be considered stellar, it was our instructor's words continuously ringing in my ears that kept me striving to master the cha-cha, gain control over the lively steps of the boogie and sway along with the swing. Simply enjoy what you are doing, my instructor said, and you will soon learn to internalize the dance and harmonize it with your emotions.

It didn't take long for me to see what she meant. Unexpected epiphanies led me to rediscover long lost pleasures on the dance floor. And the more I progressed, the more I understood the parallels between life and dance. It occurred to me that life is a form of dance: you live it according to your own rhythm and you need to breathe and to have grace, flexibility, balance and focus in order to succeed. Moreover, you get the bonus of being able to communicate with your partner without using words. It is a pleasant feeling to know that you are able to connect with someone else.

The funny thing is that months after reluctantly doing a bit of center stage stuff, I have started entertaining thoughts of hitting the ballroom with my newfound skill. But I think dancing is more than that. It's about revisiting a world I have left behind, about rekindling a thrill that lies deep within me, about looking at life face-to-face.

Although I can claim to be (ahem) relatively adept at going through the basic routine, I must confess that I still cannot execute the more complex moves effortlessly, much less elegantly. I am afraid I might end up being compared to a robot again, but at the moment I can only look with this envious admiration at the lucky guys who can do so.

Such green-eyed respect will sometimes drive a person to reach for the stars no matter the cost. Recently while switching channels, I happened to see a pair of Latino terpsichorean virtuosos giving it their all. It was an exhilarating sight, no doubt, and it made me realize that I have a very long way to go before I can catch up with such fabulous superstars. Nevertheless, after all I have gone through, I suppose what matters most is not how well you shake your booty, but how well you make the most of whatever you can do. Whatever little dancing genes I have left, I'll try to put to good use. Which means that I'll be waiting for life's greatest dance yet.

Marc Gregory Yu, 18, is in his first year of medicine proper under the Interned Program of the University of the Philippines-Manila.

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THEY SAID

BIR meltdown

The meltdown in (the) BIR collection effort is most dismaying and any remedy can only begin with a change in leadership to restore the public's faith in the agency. A report like this can only be submitted with a resignation letter as a cover memo."

—Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, reacting to the dismal revenue performance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in April.

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In RP, private schools critical to public education

A ROBUST EDUCATION SECTOR CONSISTS OF both healthy private schools and quality public schools. While it is the government's responsibility to provide free public education as a constitutional right, private education should exist as an alternative choice for Filipino parents.

But if public education is in deep trouble, private education is in dire straits.

There are, in fact, two private school systems in the country: elite and non-elite. The elite are those that charge tuition upwards of P25,000 per year.

Then there are the non-elite: parochial schools, and those run by the Church, private groups and others, catering to children of families no different—in terms of income and status—from those attending public schools. It is these non-elite private schools that are in crisis.

Fr. Manuel Medina of the Lasalle Order told me that a P950-tuition increase (P95 a month, or a 14-percent hike, the first in three years) in his school in San Mateo, Isabela, led to a loss of 100 students (from 750 to 650, or a 13-percent loss). Where have they gone? To the already crowded public schools where no tuition is charged.

Shrinking private school sector. Thirty years ago, over 45 percent of all high school students went to private secondary schools. Today, less than 19 percent are left in these schools. And that share continues to drop.

Two factors explain this shift. First, the introduction of free public high school as a constitutional right led to the establishment of thousands of new public high schools throughout the country. Second, a more recent factor, the migration of students from private to public high schools because of rising tuition costs.

How many students have private high schools lost? Thousands each year. Many private high schools are thus running with empty seats, meaning less revenue but the same expenses. Many are in real danger of closing shop altogether.

De facto cut in teachers' pay. Private schools

COMMENTARY

Juan Miguel Luz

are thus caught in a bind. Any increase in tuition fees leads to a significant reduction in enrollment; it is like signing their own death knell. So they have to keep tuition fees low, for which reason their teachers' salaries also remain extremely low. Here the differences between the elite and non-elite schools become more stark.

Elite schools can afford to pay teachers with a starting salary of P15,000 per month or higher. This is 50 percent higher than the starting pay of a public school teacher (Teacher I). For non-elite schools, the situation is reversed. In SY 2003-04, the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP) reported an average starting monthly salary of P5,405 (secondary) to P5,968 (elementary) nationwide in its member schools.

Thus this irony: the poorly paid teachers are subsidizing non-elite private schools through their low salaries. What parents cannot afford, teachers are absorbing as a de facto cut in pay.

GASTPE as solution. The government has to help private schools not only to survive, but also to prosper and grow. GASTPE (Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education) is a subsidy to private high schools. Under the program, which is managed by the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE) for DepED, the government buys up seats in accredited private high schools at a rate of P4,000 per student per year.

In SY 2005-06, GASTPE subsidized the study of 375,000 students in over 1,700 private high schools nationwide. The medium-term plan is to raise these numbers by 50,000 each year until the total number of scholars reaches 775,000 students, the number at which the pressure on our

public schools would have been eased.

Who qualifies for GASTPE? Children from families with an annual income of less than P144,000 or 12,000, as set by the National Economic Development Authority for 2006.

GASTPE presents a less expensive proposition than building classrooms, hiring new teachers, buying new furniture, and providing books and materials for the same number of students. This school year, however, GASTPE is in danger of being hijacked by politics. A new scheme by the Arroyo administration will provide local government units with "vouchers" to be given to "qualified" households. (The problem? a) Paper vouchers can be bought and sold in a black market (with families sending their children to free public schools once they have disposed of their vouchers); and b) because of the involvement of local government units, the selection process could become political rather than based on merit or need.

Private education's critical role. Not all who attend private schools are rich or belong to the elite. Many actually study in public elementary schools before switching to private high schools. But the poor economy is forcing parents to transfer their children back to public high schools. The result? Overcrowded classrooms, lack of education materials, shortage of teachers, and lack of textbooks, furniture and facilities.

This cannot continue if quality education is the objective. A healthy private school system will take some of the pressure off an overburdened public school system. The other side of the coin is this: If private schools close down, students will have no choice but to go to the already overcrowded public schools, thus further compounding the already intolerable situation there.

A strong private school system is necessary to revive our public schools.

Juan Miguel Luz is president of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction. Until recently, he was DepEd undersecretary.

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'Great again' promise

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S "I'll take RP to 'Enchanted Kingdom' of the First World" sounds very much like dictator Ferdinand Marcos' declaration "This nation shall be great again." It also calls to mind GMA's high-flown rhetoric of failed promises.

She is inviting government employees to dream together with her. But she only stirs nightmares in them. GMA's call is a ploy to delay, if not deny, the quest of government employees for salary increase to cushion the impact of the worst economic crisis the country has ever experienced.

The Valentine bonus she promised this year, like the Christmas bonuses in years past, came late.

Last April 9, during the commemoration rites marking Araw ng Kagitingan at Mt. Samat, she promised to release P1 billion to

the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

The amount was supposed to bankroll an increase in the war veterans' monthly old-age pension and the partial payment of monthly disability. But the veterans, who are now in the twilight years of their lives, until now, are still waiting for this promise to come true.

The promise is gathering cobwebs, as so many other promises that Malacañang so easily made in the past.

—MRS. TRINIDAD ESTURAS PETEZA,
J. P. Rizal Street, Barangay Camambagan,
Daei, Camarines Norte 4600

Flavor of the decade

WE WISH TO COMMENT ON SEN. MAR ROXAS' remarks published in the newspapers, lamenting the "disconnect" between the stock market figures and the actual state of the economy.

We believe that there is a direct connection between the behavior of the stock market and the direction of the economy. The stock market reflects favorable developments and fundamentals that attract long-term investments; if sustained, it increases the demand for labor which eventually leads to higher wages—thus, benefiting the poor.

Investors, whether foreign or local, may change their minds and withdraw their investments if the fundamentals change, leading others to think that they were just "parking" their money. Senator Roxas likened this to the

Philippines being the "flavor of the month." While this is possible, it is also possible that the Philippine stock market can be the "flavor of the year" or the "flavor of the decade" depending on whether the fundamentals are sustained, with all sectors of the economy contributing their respective share to efforts to sustain growth.

The signal we are getting from the stock markets suggests that it is now time for us to close ranks and show the world that the Philippines can indeed be the "flavor of the decade." We hope people like Senator Roxas will help lead the way in this undertaking.

—GEORGE U. LORENZANA,
Wharton School of Finance '68,
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Feckless government

MALACAÑANG SAYS "KILLING IS NOT THE policy of this government." The statement mocks the audience and the Filipino people.

If indeed killing is not the policy of the government, then what is it doing about the epidemic of killings sweeping our country? It is not just my younger brother Noli Capulong for whom I infinitely grieve, but also for others whose lives have been snuffed out in senseless

and cowardly killings that have been going on for some time now.

If these horrendous murders are not stopped, it simply means that the authorities are in cahoots with the killers. Either that, or they are helpless, or thoroughly feckless, over what is happening. Take your pick. Either way, every murder indicts the government.

—ATTY. EMILIO C. CAPULONG JR.

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Judges shun work over harassment

COTABATO CITY—JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS in Lanao del Sur have not been reporting to their offices for at least a week already in protest of what they said was harassment by politicians.

The Hall of Justice in Marawi City remains open but Marines were manning it.

A prosecutor, who asked not to be named, said they fear for their lives because "parties in lawsuits tend to put the law into their hands."

He cited several examples of harassments received by those working in the justice department in recent days.

These included the May 31 abduction of a court sheriff by gunmen believed to be supporters of

a defeated political candidate.

Palao Diamla was seized at gunpoint after a court hearing in Kadingilan, Marawi City. He was freed four days later.

Authorities blamed the Diamla abduction to a defeated vice mayoral candidate.

A month ago, unidentified suspects also tried to blow up the sala of Judge Amer Ibrahim by planting a hand grenade. Judge Ibrahim was to preside on a bit-

terly-contested mayoralty race of a Lanao del Sur town when the grenade was discovered.

An armed confrontation between supporters of a defeated mayoral candidate and followers of Marantao Mayor Mohammad Abinal also erupted outside the Hall of Justice while Judge Macaundas Hadjirasul was preparing to hear the election case between the two politicians.

Prosecutor Rex Pazaulan told

reporters that "an attack on one judge is an attack on all of us in the legal profession."

Pazaulan said they would continue their protest unless their concern for safety had been addressed.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, deputy commander of the military's Southern Command, has directed Marine officials in Lanao del Sur to ensure the safety of court employees and members of the judiciary.

A "no-firearm" policy would

soon be imposed in court premises to ensure that all litigants and those working in the justice compound were safe, according to Chief Supt. Akmal Mamalinta, chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police.

Mamalinta and Dolorfino also vowed to initiate dialogues between warring politicians to prevent future violence in the province. Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Zambo village finds peace for war on illegal fishing

RICH IN MARINE RESOURCES, THE COASTAL barangay of Combo in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur should have been a model community for development.

That never happened because, for the past 11 years, four local leaders and their families have been locked in a bitter conflict fueled by political, as well as family, differences.

According to a news release from the project proponents, the problem became a major concern when the local government decided to address the increasing threats to the municipality's marine resources due to poaching by commercial fishers and destructive fishing practices.

Labangan prepared a coastal management plan which included the establishment of a marine protected area (MPA) in the barangay, with assistance from USAID's Philippine Environmental Governance (EcoGov) Project and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Such a plan needed the support and involvement of the townspeople but, as the technical working group (TWG) for the MPA saw it, any attempt at a community effort would be futile unless the warring clans were reconciled.

Labangan Mayor Abubakar Afdal, Al Haj, initiated peacemaking initiatives and engaged the bickering leaders in a series of dialogues, together with the TWG and the town's council of elders.

The families in conflict, headed by Monie Manasalatag, Menting Unto, Sukarno Manasalatag and Osmenia Guimba, realized the urgent need to make peace and agreed to finally set aside their differences.

The reconciliation was formalized with the signing of a peace accord during the public consultations on the establishment of the barangay's MPA on May 11, 2006.

The activity gave community members the opportunity to discuss provisions of the ordinance governing the establishment of their marine protected area.

The four local leaders committed their full support for the undertaking.

Echoing the sentiments of the residents, Kagawad Mounghing Tinggalong said, "our barangay has been left behind for many years now."



K9 UNITS inspect the baggage of arriving passengers from Palawan at the South Harbor in Manila as threats of bombing spread from the country's capital to the provinces, including in a remote Cebu town school that created panic.

Bomb scare sends Cebu townsfolk to panic

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A BOMB THREAT on a public school in Tuburan, Cebu on Thursday sent children, parents, barangay officials and policemen into panic and caused the suspension of classes.

It started with a rumor circulating in the neighborhood that a bomb was found at the Tuburan Central School in Barangay Siete, Tuburan, about 96.7 km northwest of here.

But when the rumor was passed on, more information had been added on.

According to PO2 Romel Bangcog, of the Tuburan police station, there were people who spread word that the school had been bombed.

This prompted agitated parents to rush to the school to fetch their children, he added.

Even Barangay Siete Chair George Ceniza hurriedly went to the school to look for his wife who was working there and to help the children.

Ceniza said he got the information from two female fish dealers at the public market who went to Barangay Siete.

He said the two women claimed that their source was someone who received a text message about the supposed bomb left at the school.

Ceniza said the town policemen, firemen, soldiers from the 78th Infantry Battalion and policemen from the Regional Mobile Group also rushed to the school.

He saw parents coming in and out of the school to get their children. He even took care of some children who were crying because their parents had not arrived.

Authorities later discovered that the bomb threat was a hoax, said Ceniza. By then, he said the school officials had already suspended classes because all the pupils had gone home.

Senior Supt. Vicente Loot, provincial police director, ordered the Tuburan police to conduct an investigation to determine the source of the rumors.

"We will find out if we can prosecute the source of the information," he added.

Loot said it was understandable that the rumor quickly spread because in the towns, most of the people did not know how to handle a bomb threat.

Board move on Japan firm exec 'timely, necessary'

DINALUPIHAN, BATAAN—AN official here said the provincial board's recent withdrawal of a resolution declaring an executive of a Japanese firm building the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) as persona non grata was "timely and necessary."

Vice Mayor Leonardo Cruz, in a statement, said political tension has built up among local and provincial officials following the April 12 resolution that declared Kazuhiko Chabayashi, project manager of Obayashi Corp. in charge of the Bataan segment of the ongoing SCTEX, persona non grata.

The resolution was prompted by Chabayashi's alleged defiance of a request from the provincial

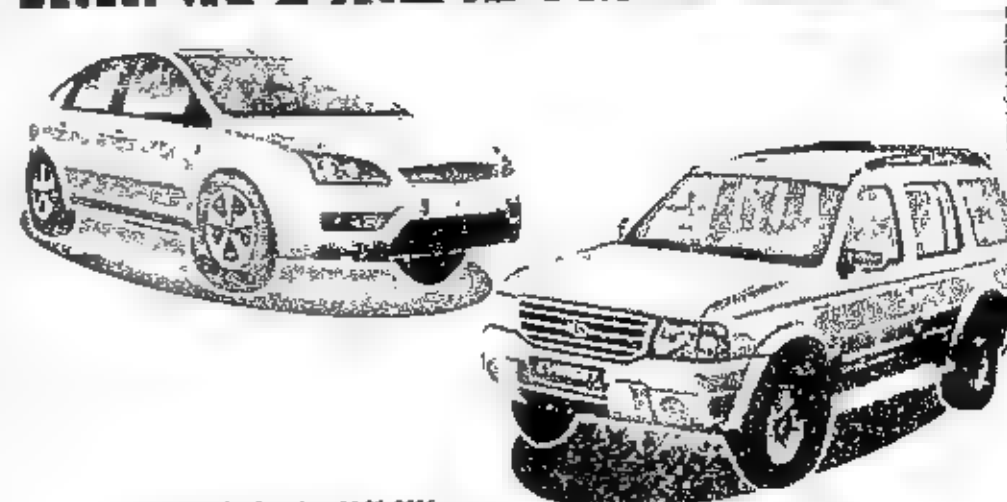
government to report on the source of filing materials for the project and to pay local taxes.

But in another resolution issued on June 5, the board said the Obayashi Corp. did not violate any order.

Cruz said officials and residents of Dinalupihan and Hermosa, the towns where the SCTEX segment would be built, saw the issue as "counter-productive."

In a letter to the Bases Conversion Development Authority last month, Dinalupihan Mayor Joel Jaime Payumo and Hermosa Mayor Efrén Cruz said a change in management personnel of Obayashi Corp. might delay the project. With reports from Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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US to import 1,000 kg of Kalinga 'unoy' rice

TABUK, KALINGA—AT LEAST 1,000 kilograms of Kalinga's unoy organic rice will be exported to the United States this month through a private marketing firm tapped by the local government here, an agriculture official said.

Gilbert Cawis, Tabuk municipal agriculturist, said the unoy, an aromatic rice grown and consumed in the upland villages of Kalinga, has been attracting the foreign market since last year through the efforts of the Revitalized Indigenous Cordillera Entrepreneur Inc. (Rice).

Members of the Kalinga Organic Unoy Rice Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Inc., based in Barangay Bulanao, provided the harvest that would com-

prise the first shipment on June 18.

The cooperative's 201 members were to harvest 25 kg each to meet the 5,025 kg quota for shipment this year, said Felicitas Balmores, coordinator for the unoy rice growing.

Balmores said the cooperative is preparing 2,500 kg of unoy for the second shipment in October.

She said the town government has established an unoy rice demonstration farm in the village of Agban-nawag to boost harvest.

Unoy growing, she said, is dependent on rainfall so farmers have limited harvests in a year. Farmers do not use fertilizer and pesticides to grow unoy, she said.

Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr. said the shipment was approved after the cooperative and the local government sent at least 18 varieties of unoy rice for testing in the States.

Only two varieties, the inowayan and mimis, passed the standard of an international rice market based in Montana.

Records from the town's agriculture office said the inowayan variety could yield 65 cavans of palay in a 1.5-hectare farm while the mimis variety could fetch up to 30 cavans in a hectare.

These varieties are raised in the villages of Nambucayan and Magnao in upper Tabuk. Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



"UNOY" rice pounding is never fun, this Kalinga man probably thinks as he uses his mortar in a pounding contest in Tabuk, Kalinga. VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

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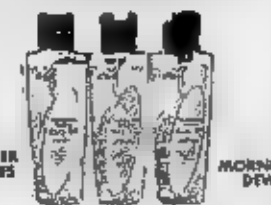


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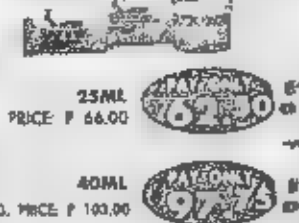
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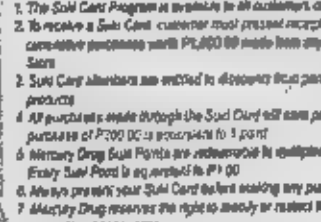
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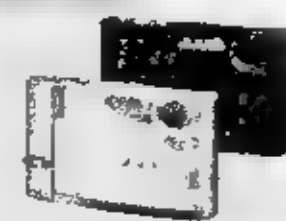
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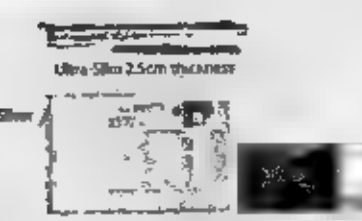
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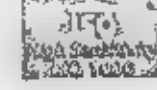
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INQUIRER *Visayas*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Energy Village rises from disaster

By Vicente S. Labro
Liloan, Southern Leyte

FIVE DAYS BEFORE A HUGE CHUNK OF A mountain fell and covered the entire village of Guinsaungon with mud and boulders in February, residents of Barangays Malangsa and Catig in Liloan, Southern Leyte were already fleeing from disaster and crying out for help.

Now, the people wear smiles on their faces. Some corporate executives from the energy sector have pooled their resources to help rebuild their lives.

Bulldozers, graders and dump trucks are now making roads and shaping the land, while volunteers are busy building 50 duplex units for 100 evacuee-families in a 3.5-hectare resettlement area in Barangay Fatima, also in Liloan. The housing project is expected to be finished in three to four months.

The evacuees from Malangsa will also have health and livelihood assistance centers, and a basketball court, among other facilities.

"We'll not build just houses but homes. We are not relocating a barrio but a community for the greatest damage that the calamity brought was the disruption of the normal pacing that we set on our journey through life," Mayor Mario Maano told the beneficiaries during the ceremonial brick-laying and project blessing.

The evacuees from Catig are to be relocated soon to another area, just 50 meters away. Another group is sponsoring the project.

Danger zones

Malangsa and Catig have been declared permanent danger zones and their people will be staying permanently in the relocation sites.

They would never forget that fateful day of Feb. 12, when a landslide hit Sitio Agas-Agas, Barangay Kahapian in Sogod town, killing seven people.

About 2,500 residents from San Francisco, a neighboring town of Liloan, evacuated to safe grounds as floodwaters kept rising. In Liloan, some 400 people from Malangsa and Catig were moved to the town proper.

Five days later, another landslide wiped out Guinsaungon in St. Bernard town, 25 km from Liloan. More than 1,000 people were killed.

Gov. Rosette Y. Leras said her first call for assistance was not for Guinsaungon but for Malangsa and Catig.

She recalled that on Feb. 12, she received a text message that read: "Please send us a Philippine Navy boat or else we would be buried alive."

At that time, Leras said, the villages were "caught between the devil and the deep blue sea."

"The mountain had been eroded; there were big waves at sea," she said in Filipino. "The stronger villagers walked out to seek help, but the elders, children and women were left behind."

She said she immediately called up the National Disaster Coordinating Council, which dispatched a Navy boat to the two villages.

That night, members of the Southern Leyte Emergency Rescue Team and the local Philippine National Red Cross arrived, together with soldiers from the 43rd Infantry Battalion and policemen.

Malangsa and Catig were already inaccessible by land due to the landslides. The evacuees, most of them muddled, were transported by boat to the town proper.

On Dec. 19, 2003, Liloan was hit by torrents of mud after six days of heavy rain.

In Malangsa, the flood swept several houses and killed a number of people. Several other villages in Liloan, San Francisco and San Ricardo towns, all on Panaon Island, were hit by flash floods and mudflow. More than 150

persons died.

In the February disaster, many individuals, groups and companies immediately sent relief goods to Southern Leyte.

"With the overwhelming support from this loose consortium of [energy] companies, we found it necessary to look beyond relief. We saw the need to optimize the resources we have and provide a sustainable solution to the plight of the displaced families," said Nicasio Alcantara, chair of Petron Corp.

Rebuilding community

He said help to rebuild Southern Leyte would mean rebuilding a community.

With Gawad Kalunga as partner, together with the provincial and municipal governments, they created the Tulong Kapwa-GK Energy Village in Liloan, he said.

The housing project "represents the whole-hearted response of business, government and civil society to make collective action work in turning tragedy into triumph," Alcantara said.

Rallied by the Department of Energy, the companies were able to collect an initial donation of P14 994 million. The amount was allotted for the construction of 100 houses (P6 million), land acquisition and site development (P1.2 million), livelihood program (P1 million), school program (P6.3 million), and the construction of a day care and multi-purpose hall (P500,000).

Two more firms donated P1.5 million during the recent gathering in Fatima.

The donors included Petron, Transco, China National Offshore Oil Co., Kepco, Marubeni Corp., Manila Economic and Cultural Office, Nido Petroleum Philippines Pty. Ltd., Philippine Business for Social Progress, Philippine Electricity Market Corp., Salcom Power Corp., San Roque Power Corp., Mirant Foundation and California Energy.

The Petron Foundation will serve as depository for all donations received for the housing project, while PNOC-EDC will provide administrative and logistical support. Through its volunteers, GK will undertake the construction of the houses.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla told the beneficiaries that his group did not have to convince the private sector to help the disaster victims. They volunteered to give donations, he said.

"So, initially, what was a picture of tragedy was slowly transformed into what we are now painting, which is a picture of thanksgiving," Lotilla said. But he quickly added: "I think we are painting a larger picture—it is a picture of hope."

As a way of thanking their benefactors, Malangsa barangay chair Rogelio Sikad presented Lotilla with a gold-covered stone that was found in their village to symbolize the donors' "heart of gold."

Nestor Bulan, a leader of the Mamanwa tribe in Southern Leyte, and some of his followers came from neighboring San Francisco to offer their labor and other services for the project.



AT LEAST 100 houses for victims of the Guinsaungon landslide, funded by the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce through Gawad Kalunga, start taking shape.

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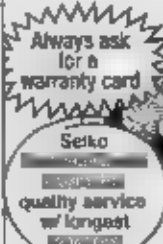


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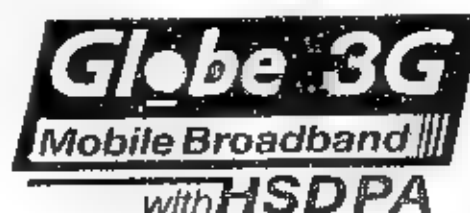
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Smokey Mountain site of new urban reforestation project

Tree planting, watershed rehab in the works

By Blanche S. Rivera

A GREEN BELT IN SMOKEY MOUNTAIN

The former mountain of trash has been selected as one of five reforestation sites in Metro Manila for the Green Philippines project to be launched by the government.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) have signed an agreement to jointly develop the area in Tondo, Manila, as a site for an urban greening project.

PWPA chair Tony Olizon said the group would plant mahogany, acacia and other durable trees around the tenement houses and the nature-inspired ecological church being built by the Parish of the Risen Christ.

"Imagine Greenbelt in Makati. We want to create something like that around the church but bigger," Olizon said.

The PWPA has talked with residents of Smokey Mountain to encourage them to help in the reforestation efforts and to clean up a creek near the tenement buildings for planting.

"We saw that there were a lot of poor people residing in the area and it was too hot precisely because there were no trees. We want to improve the living conditions of people in our own small way," Olizon said in a phone interview.

Five Metro Manila sites and three provinces were chosen as centers for urban greening, watershed rehabilitation, community forestry and industrial tree plantation under Green Philippines. The four other Metro sites, however, had not yet been identified.

New chapter

"This heralds a new chapter of the PWPA's presence in the country's wood industry because this undertaking puts the association at the forefront of the government's reforestation program," Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a statement.

The PWPA, which has bucked proposals by environmental groups for a total log ban because of their wood requirement, will launch the project later this month.

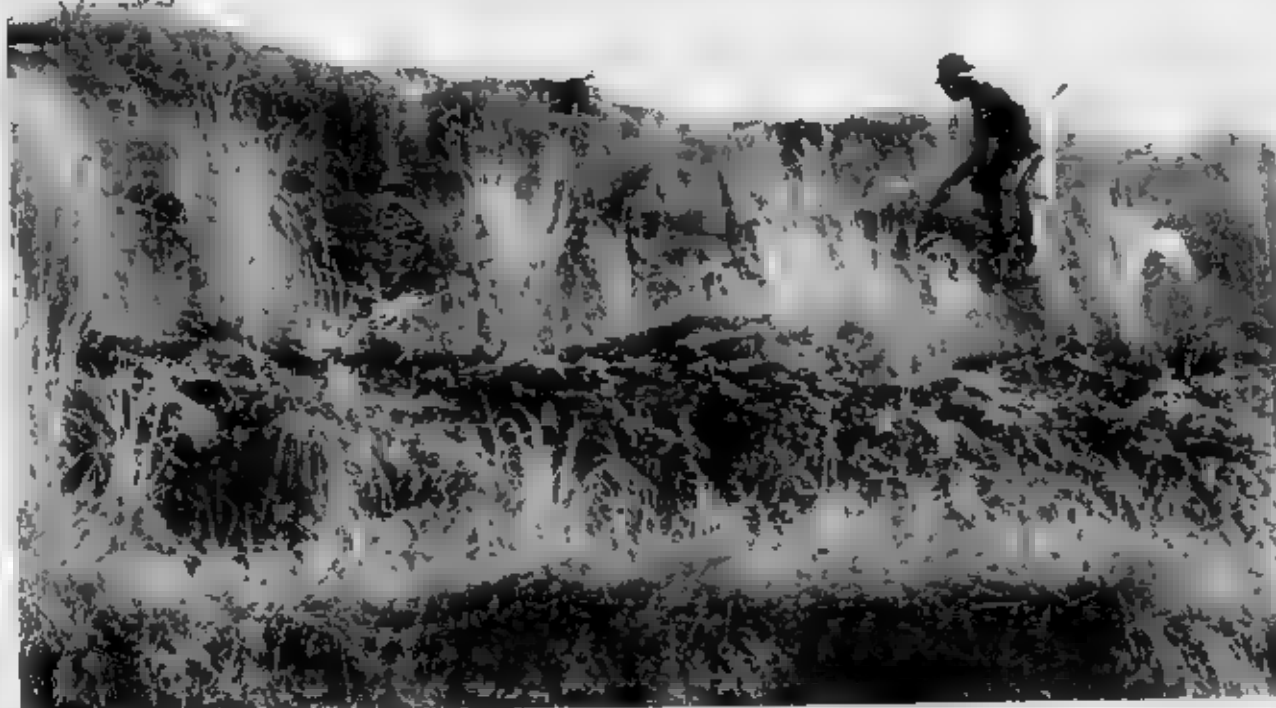
The PWPA will also reforest the shoreline of Taal Lake and the tributaries of the San Juan River running through towns in Batangas and Bataan. It will establish a tree plantation in Morong, Bataan for fuel wood, fruit trees and other species that can serve as a livelihood source for the community.

Another model tree plantation will be put up in Sibuco, Zamboanga as a pilot area for a 10,000-hectare tree plantation project to be developed by Srawal Plywood and Lumber Co.

"This is just going to be a model, we'll ask different cities and municipalities to identify areas for other green belts," Olizon said, referring to its greening of Smokey Mountain.

A dump often used as a symbol of urban decay and poverty in the past decades, Smokey Mountain was closed down on orders of then President Ramos in 1994.

A year later, an initial batch of 88 families were resettled in the area, living in temporary homes made of concrete, plywood and galvanized iron roofs. A plan to build high-rise living quarters to replace temporary homes for the community, largely made of scavengers who sell scrap and trash for recycling, was later suspended because of changes in the original agreement between the government and the building contractor.



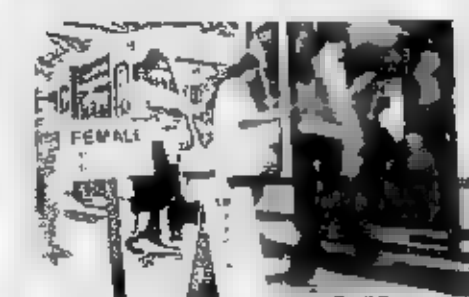
WHAT'S INSIDE

Frank Valdez mauled by
in Alabang mall /A18



Taguig trash queen's prize to fund clean and green projects /A18

Cameraphones used to monitor would-be robbery victims at LRT, MRT /A18



SMOKEY Mountain, a dump in Tondo that gained notoriety as a symbol of poverty and neglect before it was closed down in 1994, is the center of a grand plan to reforest a once barren and foul-smelling wasteland. BYN/MLN

P5

6

8++

Manila to Luzon and Visayas
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US Catholics to recite a changed Mass

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS IN THE United States voted Thursday to change the wording of many of the prayers and blessings that Catholics have recited at daily Mass for more than 35 years, yielding to Vatican pressure for an English translation that is closer to the original Latin.

The bishops, meeting in Los Angeles, voted 173-29 to accept many of the changes to the Mass, ending a 10-year struggle that many English-speaking Catholics had dubbed "the liturgy wars."

Passage required a two-thirds vote. Some changes are minor, but in other cases Catholics will have to learn longer and more awkward versions of familiar prayers. For example, instead of saying, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you," in the prayer before Communion, they

will say, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof."

The reason for the change is a Vatican directive issued in 2001 under Pope John Paul II that demanded closer adherence to the Latin text. But some bishops in the English-speaking world were indignant at what they saw as a Vatican move to curtail the autonomy of each nation's bishops to translate liturgical texts according to local tastes and needs.

The new translation is likely to please those traditionalists who longed for an English version more faithful to the Latin in use before the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. But it may upset Catholics who have committed the current prayer book to heart and to memory and who took comfort in its more conversational cadences.

"This translation will affect the worship life of every Catholic in the United States and beyond," said Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie, Pa., chairman of the bishops' Committee on the Liturgy and a vocal critic of the new translation who helped stir opposition to it.

The translation must go to the Vatican and Pope Benedict XVI for final approval. It could still take years until the new text is published and put into use in American churches.

The bishops rejected about 60 of the changes proposed by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy, the panel of bishops from 11 English-speaking countries that prepared the translation.

The Rev. Lawrence J. Madden, director of the Georgetown Center for Liturgy in

Washington, said: "In hewing to the Latin more closely, it's making some of the English awkward. It isn't the English we speak. It's becoming more sacred English, rather than vernacular English."

Madden said: "That's one of the reasons why a large number of the bishops up to this point have been opposed to the translation, because they're afraid this is going to distance the liturgy from the people."

The Rev. Robert J. Silva, president of the National Federation of Priests Councils, said of the priests he represents: "We're not real anxious to have changes. There's real concern because a lot of us are saying, is this really a theological and Biblical issue? Is it really to upgrade the language, or is this something that's a little more ideological?"

NYT



POPE Benedict XVI celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi in Rome, June 15.

AFP

US airlines hike fares

ADD THIS TO THE GROWING LIST OF headaches for travelers: Fares keep rising.

Most of the nation's largest airlines said Thursday they would raise prices for many last-minute tickets.

If the fare hike holds, it will be further evidence that the airlines are taking advantage of a situation that is good for them and bad for consumers—demand for travel is growing with the economy, yet the number of seats remains limited, giving the airlines power to push up fares.

On Thursday, American Airlines, United Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Continental Airlines and US Airways followed Delta Air Lines' move to increase one-way walk-up fares, which are typically bought by business travelers, by \$50.

Airlines generally raise fares in smaller increments. So even if some airlines break from the pack and pull back somewhat from the increase, fares on many routes could end up higher, extending a run of rising ticket prices.

This latest increase will affect some of the most expensive flights, which have already jumped 21 percent in the last year, according to Harrell Associates, an airline data-tracking firm. With the \$50 increase, the average last-minute one-way ticket, which last week cost \$478, will likely jump another \$38.

NYT



STILL MAKING HAY

Legendary physicist Dr. Albert Einstein, author of the theory of relativity, is shown in this undated photo. Even in the afterlife, some celebrities—in big-time moneymakers. Einstein, along with the likes of Elvis Presley, Kurt Cobain, Andy Warhol and Marilyn Monroe, continues to earn enviable incomes from the grave, according to Forbes magazine.

S. African whites urged to take stock as Soweto uprising marked

JOHANNESBURG—SOUTH AFRICA ON Friday marked the 30th anniversary of the Soweto uprising, one of the bloodiest chapters of apartheid, amid renewed debate over whether whites should own up to the atrocities of the former regime.

Hundreds of black youths died at the hands of police during protests against the enforced use of Afrikaans in schools that began on June 16, 1976, in the Johannesburg township of Soweto.

The protests marked a turning point in the anti-apartheid struggle and the brutal police response set international public opinion against the white regime.

The 30th anniversary of the 1976 uprising is being celebrated in the wake of a firestorm touched off by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who remarked in late April that whites had not shown enough gratitude for the magnanimity shown by blacks.

His comments drew a strong response from both sides of the racial divide, setting off a deluge of opinion pieces, letters from incensed newspaper readers and phone calls to radio talk shows, confirming that Tutu had struck a raw nerve.

Nkosinathi Biko, son of anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko, said that as the nation marked 30 years since the Soweto uprising, white South Africans should take responsibility for the sins of apartheid.

"White South Africans must reckon with history for what it is and not for what they wish it to have been," Biko wrote in a newspaper commentary.

Biko, who was 6 years old when his father died in detention in 1977 after being tortured

by security police, told AFP that the new generation of black South Africans might not be as gracious as their contemporaries.

"If Bishop Tutu, who is the embodiment of reconciliation, is making these kinds of statements, should we not be concerned that there may be a growing intolerance?" said Biko.

"We hear a lot of community voices that say 'we are well beyond the honeymoon period,'" said Biko, the executive director of the Steve Biko Foundation, which runs programs to develop youth leadership.

The debate over whether whites should atone for the sins of apartheid is a recurring one in South Africa, which has won praise for its peaceful transition to black majority rule since 1994.

A campaign spearheaded in 2000 by former African National Congress (ANC) member of parliament Carl Niehaus to get prominent whites to sign a statement apologizing for apartheid fell flat.

Niehaus, who served as South Africa's ambassador to the Netherlands, said whites had failed to recognize that they were the "benefactors of apartheid" and "continue to benefit to this day."

"We don't deal with it properly," said Niehaus, an Afrikaner. "We seem to want to forget too quickly the damages of apartheid that have been inflicted."

"The 30th anniversary is an opportunity to go back to the white community and say 'A large number of young people were shot and killed for no other reason than for the fact that they did not want to live in a society where they were second-class citizens,'" Niehaus told AFP.

AFP

Special fish to fight mosquitoes

NEW ORLEANS—IN A LARGE ABOVE-ground pool here, entomologists are breeding front-line mosquito fighters.

Hiding in the fibrous root systems dangling in the brown water, these fighters—hundreds of inch-long, guppy-like minnows—are being raised to be deployed to thousands of festering, flooded-out pools and hot tubs abandoned in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast since Hurricane "Katrina" last August.

Their mission: Devour mosquito larvae and, potentially, prevent the spread of diseases like mosquito-borne encephalitis and the sometimes deadly West Nile virus. In the process, they'll help minimize one of this region's most annoying summer pests.

"They're incredible little fish," said

Greg Thompson, a research entomologist for the New Orleans Mosquito and Termite Control Board, as he sprinkled flakes of fish food into the harvesting pool.

The fish have been used to control mosquito populations since the 1930s, but this post-Katrina offensive marks the first time they've been harvested by the thousands for deposit into pools that have become scummy breeding tanks for mosquito larvae.

The abundance of standing water and hot summer temperatures can create a mosquito-breeding haven. And with as many as 6,000 abandoned pools in New Orleans alone, mosquito experts say the tiny fish are their biggest allies in protecting the

Gulf Coast from a nasty mosquito infestation.

"Just a bucket of water can breed thousands of mosquitoes," said Ashley Gray, a college student interning with the mosquito control board this summer.

The mosquito fish, native to this region and probably the world's most effective biological mosquito control agent, are surface-breathers and capable of surviving in polluted waters with low oxygen levels. Their primary food source is mosquito larvae, though they also can live off algae.

Fast reproducers, one female can give live birth to up to 100 babies every 30 days or so. Each can gobble as many as 100 mosquito larvae a day.

AP

Now, Ahmadinejad says nuke incentive offer a 'step forward'

SHANGHAI—IRANIAN PRESIDENT Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Friday the international incentive offer to curtail his nation's nuclear program was a "step forward" that would be carefully considered.

"We regard the offer of a package as a step forward and I have instructed my colleagues to carefully consider it," Ahmadinejad, in China for the leaders' summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, told a press conference.

"We will give a response in due time in line with the international interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Ahmadinejad was commenting on the offer—put forward this month by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany—of incentives to Tehran if it agreed to suspend uranium enrichment.

Uranium enrichment makes nuclear reactor fuel but also atom bomb material.

The United States has led international warnings that Iran intends to build a nuclear weapons program.

Tehran insists its nuclear program is only for energy purposes and that it has a right to enrich uranium.

"We are not seeking to develop nuclear weapons," Ahmadinejad reiterated Friday.

He then sought to focus attention



AHMADINEJAD in Shanghai June 16.

the future world."

Iran has previously given mixed signals over whether it will accept the incentive offer, made by the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany to Tehran on June 6.

Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ali Asghar Soltanlou, said Thursday the international community's "carrot-and-stick" policy over Iran's nuclear program was counterproductive.

"Humiliation and the use of language of threat of referring the nuclear dossier to the UN Security Council... have had a serious impact on mutual trust and confidence on parties involved and thus the process of negotiations," he said.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also said Thursday his country would not bow to pressure over its atomic program, implicitly rejecting the calls to suspend enrichment.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will not bend to these pressures. The continuation of this scientific progress is its fundamental and basic right," Iranian state television quoted Khamenei as saying.

The incentives package includes the lifting of some US trade sanctions and international support for the "building of new light water reactors in Iran," according to a copy of the proposal shown to AFP.

AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US military deaths in Iraq hit 2,500



MOURNER salutes the body of Staff Sgt. Richard A. Blakley, killed in action in Iraq, at his funeral June 15 in Avon, Ind.

WASHINGTON—AMERICAN DEATHS SINCE THE invasion of Iraq have reached 2,500, marking a grim milestone in the wake of recent events that President George W. Bush hopes will reverse the war's unpopularity at home.

The latest death was announced as Congress was launching a symbolic election-year debate over the war, with Republicans rallying against calls by some Democrats to set a timetable for the withdrawal of US troops.

The Pentagon provided no details on the nature of the 2,500th death. Nevertheless, reaching the new marker underscored the continuing violence in Iraq just after an upbeat Bush returned from a

surprise visit to Baghdad determined that the tide was beginning to turn.

"It's a number," White House press secretary Tony Snow told reporters at the White House.

"Any president who goes through a time of war feels very deeply the responsibility for sending men and women into harm's way, feels very deeply the pain that the families feel. This president is no different," he said.

"It's always a sad benchmark, and one of the things the president has said is that these people will not die in vain," Snow added. "... You've got a government now that can help ensure that that is not the case."

The Pentagon releases new casualty figures daily with no fanfare—and scant detail—as defense officials have said that no one death should be highlighted since all losses are equally tragic.

Some members of Congress have been calling for a timetable for the eventual withdrawal of troops from Iraq, of which there are about 127,000.

The United States invaded Iraq in March 2003, in an effort to depose dictator Saddam Hussein, and now debunked allegations

that he had weapons of mass destruction.

According to the Pentagon totals, there have been 1,972 service members killed in action in Iraq, and another 528 died from other non-hostile causes. There also have been 18,490 troops wounded in action, including 8,501 who did not return to duty.

According to some estimates, about 4,800 Iraqi police and security forces have died during the war, and at least 30,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed.

Bush has dismissed calls for a US withdrawal as election-year politics and has consistently refused to give a timetable of benchmark for success that would allow troops to come home. AP

Iraq war costs estimated at \$319 billion

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States has appropriated an estimated \$319 billion for the war on Iraq through 2006 with an emergency spending package approved by Congress Thursday, the Congressional Research Service said.

The agency said average monthly spending on the war in Iraq may rise to \$8 billion this fiscal year, up from \$6.4 billion a month in 2005.

It said the Department of De-

fense's annual war funding rose from about \$73 billion in fiscal 2004 to \$102 billion in fiscal 2005, "and may reach \$118 billion in FY 2006 if the pending supplemental is enacted," the report said.

The report was issued shortly before Congress approved a \$94.5-billion emergency spending bill that included \$65.8 billion to fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The CRS said \$437 billion have been appropriated since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to fund US military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, the broader war on terrorism and homeland defense.

Spending on Afghanistan averaged \$1.3 billion a month in 2005 and may rise to \$1.5 billion in 2006, the report said.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that "war costs could total \$371 billion between

FY 2007 and FY 2016," it said.

That would assume a draw-down of US troops engaged in those operations from about 258,000 currently to 74,000 by fiscal year 2010, it said.

"Adding that amount to the \$437 billion with the FY 2006 supplemental (budget request), total funding for Iraq and the GWOT (Global War on Terrorism) could reach \$808 billion by 2016," the report said. AFP

US puts a face on Zarqawi successor

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—US MILITARY officers on Thursday put a face on the new chief of al-Qaida in Mesopotamia, releasing a photograph and details of the man they say succeeded Abu Musab al-Zarqawi after he was killed in an air strike last week.

In a news briefing, Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell, the US military spokesperson here, identified al-Zarqawi's probable successor as Abu Ayyub al-Masri, an Egyptian who he said had trained in one of the terrorist camps in Afghanistan run by al-Qaida in 1999.

Al-Masri, he said, was a "founding member" of al-Qaida in Mesopotamia and had become one of al-Zarqawi's "closest remaining associates." The group is believed to be responsible for dozens of suicide and car bombings across Iraq that have killed hundreds of Iraqi civilians.

Caldwell said that al-Masri—the name means "the Egyptian" in Arabic—is the same person as Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, whom al-Qaida in Mesopotamia declared Monday as their new leader in an Internet posting. Both names are thought to be pseudonyms. Shortly after al-Zarqawi was killed, US officials predicted that al-Masri would be the successor.

Still, on Thursday, US officials said they had seen signs of disruption, and a possible power struggle, going on within the group.

The Americans said al-Masri joined the Egyptian militant group, Islamic Jihad, in 1982 and



UNDATED photo of Abu Ayyub al-Masri.

went to Afghanistan in 1999 to train in the Farouq militant camp, where he learned about explosives. The Farouq camp was one of the main al-Qaida training camps before it was bombed by the Americans in October 2001.

Caldwell said al-Masri came to Iraq in early 2003 and helped to set up the original cell in Baghdad of what later became al-Qaida in Mesopotamia. More recently, al-Masri was a senior operational commander for the group, supplying suicide bombers and car bombs. He was responsible for all operations in southern Iraq, Caldwell said.

Al-Masri is believed to be operating in Baghdad, he said.

US officials said they believe that al-Zarqawi's death has disrupted the leadership of al-Qaida in Mesopotamia, and that a struggle for control of the organization may be under way. NYT

Washington sniper bares details of 4 new shootings

WASHINGTON—ONE OF THE two men convicted in a string of sniper attacks in the Washington area in 2002 told authorities that he and his co-conspirator were responsible for four other shootings that had not been publicly linked to them, according to a published report.

The Washington Post said in a story in Friday's editions that Lee Boyd Malvo told authorities about the shootings—two of them fatal—occurred before the three-week spree in October 2002 in which 13 people were shot, 10 fatally, in the Washington area.

The Post said a second source confirmed that investigators have received information implicating Malvo and John Allen Muhammad in the four other shootings.

Law enforcement officials interviewed Malvo extensively to prepare for his testimony at Muhammad's trial last month in Maryland.

The two most recently linked homicide victims were a man shot in Los Angeles in February or March 2002 and a man shot in the head from a distance May 27, 2002, in Denton, Texas, a Dallas suburb. The two survivors are a 75-year-old Tucson man shot May 18, 2002, at a golf course in Clearwater, Florida, and a 54-year-old Louisiana man shot during a robbery on Aug. 1, 2002, after leaving a shopping mall in a suburb of Baton Rouge, The Post reported.

Besides the Washington area shootings, Muhammad and Malvo are linked to earlier shootings in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland and Washington state. They are also suspects in the March 2002 shooting of golfer Jerry Taylor on a Tucson, Arizona, golf course. AP



GOING FISHING

Bathed in the day's last light, Greg Roscoe fishes the shallow waters near the Dunlawton Bridge in Port Orange, Fla., June 15.

Fossils indicate all birds had a common ancestor

FILLING A GAP IN THE EVOLUTION of birds, scientists have dug up fossils of a bird that lived 110 million years ago and looked remarkably like a small modern-day waterfowl.

One of the new fossils, from northwest China, even preserves the webbing between the toes. The finding, reported Friday in the journal *Science*, supports the notion that all living birds, from ostriches to ducks to hummingbirds, descended from an ancestor that lived by the shore.

The first fossil of the bird, *Gansus yumenensis*, was discovered 25 years ago, and it was named after where it was found, near the city of Yumen in the Chinese province of Gansu. But that fossil was just the left foot and part of the ankle, enough to show that the *Gansus* was small—about the size of a robin—but leaving much unknown.

In 2004, researchers led by Hai-Ju You of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences returned to the region and found about 40 more fossils of *Gansus* in an area that was once a lake. The best preserved fossils are nearly complete and even show parts of the feathers, although none include the bird's skull.

The bones of the upper body suggest that *Gansus* was able to take flight from the water, much like today's ducks. Webbed feet and bony knees, which probably anchored strong muscles, show that *Gansus* could swim.

"We have thought of it as more like a diving duck or a loon," said Matthew C. Lamanna, an author of the *Science* paper who is assistant curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. "We see it as a swimmer or a diver." NYT

How to solve obesity in the US: Redesign neighborhoods

By Chase Squires

DENVER—IT'LL TAKE MORE than public service campaigns to solve the US obesity problem, according to fitness experts who say neighborhoods must be designed so people can get around without their cars.

"Virtually everything American society has done for the past 100 years has made it easier for its people to be fatter," said James Sallis, a San Diego State University psychology professor, and oth-

ers who gathered recently at the American College of Sports Medicine's annual meeting.

"We've built an unhealthy world in a lot of different ways," said Sallis, who was once dubbed an "obesity warrior" by *Time* magazine.

Sallis contends change will come only when the public demands walkable development, more federal money for parks and bike paths and even a tax on industries that promote sedentary lifestyles (he pointed to

video game makers, movie theaters and even electric Segway scooters).

Proof that people will accept an active lifestyle and walk to parks and shopping if they can is found in the "new urbanism" style of planned communities, the experts contend. They pointed to Denver's Stapleton neighborhood, an enclave of new homes built where the city's old airport used to be.

The neighborhood is a mix of shops, offices, parks, apartments

and houses linked by wide sidewalks and meandering bike paths. Architecture varies from single-family homes to rows of brownstones. Tom Gleason, a spokesperson for developer Forest City, said the design has been a hit.

"People will walk if you give them that opportunity," he said.

Jack Berryman, a professor of medical history at the University of Washington, said active lifestyles date back centuries and President Theodore Roosevelt lu-

mously worried about Americans' "slothful life." Before both world wars, military leaders complained about "soft" recruits. President Dwight D. Eisenhower launched the President's Council on Physical Fitness in 1956.

"Given all that, which I am suggesting got the word out, it's just failure, failure, failure. Fatter, not fitter," Berryman said.

Two years ago, the National Institute of Environmental Health Science hosted a conference on how society has engi-

neered activity out of American life. Institute spokesperson Christine Bruske said a similar conference last year focused on how children are affected, but new ideas take time.

Without a coordinated effort among federal, state and local governments, communities can't compete, Sallis said. Transportation money goes to highways, not bike paths or even sidewalks in newer developments.

"Everything is engineered against us," Sallis said. AP

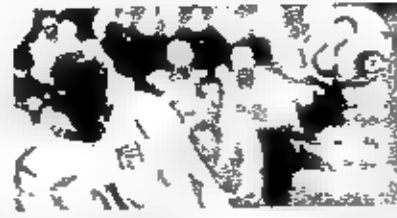
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Red Bull ousts listless Ginebra

Tough defense defangs Kings' Menk, Caguioa

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4:10 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods
6:35 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Red Bull/Ginebra

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—RED BULL wasn't really hot. Barangay Ginebra was simply not up to the task.

The Bulls laid a merciless full-court trap throughout and scored a runaway 120-98 victory over the Gin Kings to advance into the semifinals of the Grand Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Ynares Center.

For the second straight time, the Bulls bottled up Eric Menk in the paint while putting the cuffs on streak-shooting Mark Caguioa to set up a best-of-seven semifinal clash with the San Miguel Beermen starting tomorrow.

It will be Purefoods against Alaska in the other semifinal, duel.

Caguioa finished with 17 points, a far cry from his 27-point series average.

Menk was even worse. The reigning MVP came up with 14 points and nine rebounds



GINEBRA'S Eric Menk tries to block the shot of Red Bull's Lordy Tugade.

ERIC ARAZAS

but was five-of-19 from the field. Caguioa converted six out of 21 attempts.

"I guess we have to look back at Game 4," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who also ousted Siot Tanquingcen and the Kings in the semifinals of the Fiesta Conference.

"Our momentum and energy spilled over and the result was the same."

Coach Yeng Guiao capitalized on his manpower advantage, efficiently rotating his men, five of whom finished in double figures.

Cyrus Baguio and Leo Najorda had career-highs 23 and 21 points, respectively, while Junthy Valenzuela and Mick Pennisi added 13 and 12 points for the Bulls. Lordy Tugade also finished with 21 points.

"We cashed in on their manpower woes and used our bench depth to the hilt," said Guiao, whose wards dumped the Kings in Game 4, 118-97, to force last night's rubber match.

Ailan Salansang's miracle shot with one-tenth of a second left before intermission and Mark Macapagal's nine-point cluster in the first half boosted the morale of the Kings.

But other than those feats, the Kings, who missed key men due to various injuries, were simply disappointing.

Menk was far from his usual lethal self in the paint and Mark Caguioa couldn't find his rhythm.

Rookie Paolo Buga and Leo Najorda alternated in containing Menk, who made only one of eight field-goal attempts in the first half.

Baguio led Red Bull's quick start, scoring 11 points, deflecting a couple of shots and forcing Caguioa into turnovers as the Bulls built a 27-18 lead.

The scores:

RED BULL 120—Baguio 23, Najorda 21, Tugade 21, Valenzuela 13, Pennisi 12, Robinson 8, Alvarez 7, Fonacier 6, Buga 6, Villanueva 3, Hrabak 0.

GINEBRA 98—Macapagal 20, Caguioa 17, Ferrer 16, Menk 14, Salansang 8, Echavez 8, Holper 7, Salvacion 6, Sotto 2, Ramos 0.

Quarters: 27-18, 48-37, 80-65, 120-98

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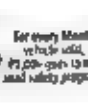
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* As awarded by Car Awards Group Inc.

SPORTS

Clavecilla unchallenged in the end



CLAVECILLA

By Musong R. Castillo

SILANG, CAVITIS—SO MUCH FOR THE SHOOT OUT.

Iggy Clavecilla, getting a little help from Francis Gaston, shot a five-over-par 76 yesterday and won the Philippine Seniors Amateur Golf championship by eight shots over his buddy and fellow Luisita mainstay here.

Gaston, the former RP Amateur champ, made a mess out of his final round with a fat 8 on the par-3 eighth as he closed out with an 83 at the Riviera's tough Langer course.

Clavecilla pulled away from Gaston after four

holes, stretched the lead to 11 at the turn, and wound up with a 226 total after 54 holes of the event presented by Harbour Centre.

"Those were the breaks of the game and it was good for me to have had such a lead (after nine holes)," said Clavecilla, the defending Asia-Pacific champion. "I also got tired playing the last nine."

The 58-year-old Clavecilla, who together with Gaston and Philippine Sports Commissioner Richie Garcia made Luisita a powerhouse team in the PAL Interclub close to two decades ago, picked up his second title in this tournament after winning in 2003 at The Orchard.

Seve Chua finished third (82-242) and Bryan

Cockrell carded an 81 for fourth with 246.

Edwin Arcilla and Joe Lao shared fifth place with 248s after an 83 and an 85, respectively, followed by Danny Pizarro (83-250), veteran Caloy Coscolluela (84-251), Jose Nepomuceno (90-259) and Philip Judan (94-266).

Other winners: Category 1 (55-59)—Gross: Ted Flores (81-158); Net: Arnoldo Baulista (79-152); Category 2 (60-64)—Gross: Tito Eusebio (89-171); Net: Arsenio Parada (78-148); Category 3 (65-69)—Gross: Ben Liohan (75-180); Net: Benny Picalon (89-143); Super Senior 1 (70-74)—Gross: Jun Galindez (81-184); Net: Ricardo Quins (79-145); Super Senior 2 (75-shove)—Gross: Carlos Nipo (102-200), runner-up former President Fidel V. Ramos; Net: Enrique Beech (86-184).

Harbour, Toyota Otis clash for crown

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN JOSEPH YEO COULDN'T GET HIS SHOTS TO FALL EARLY in Game 4, Harbour Centre's top gunner vowed to make up for it in some other ways.

"He said he was unlucky, so he'll just contribute in other areas," said Portmasters coach Jorge Gallego. "He ended up getting the most rebounds in the team, and he had many assists." "So for Gallant, it will all be about attitude when Harbour Centre and Toyota Otis dispute the PBL Unity Cup in a rubber match at 3 p.m. today at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

"If we play with the same attitude, we can close it out," said Gallant. "The desire was there from the beginning and we can't reach this stage if we don't have character."

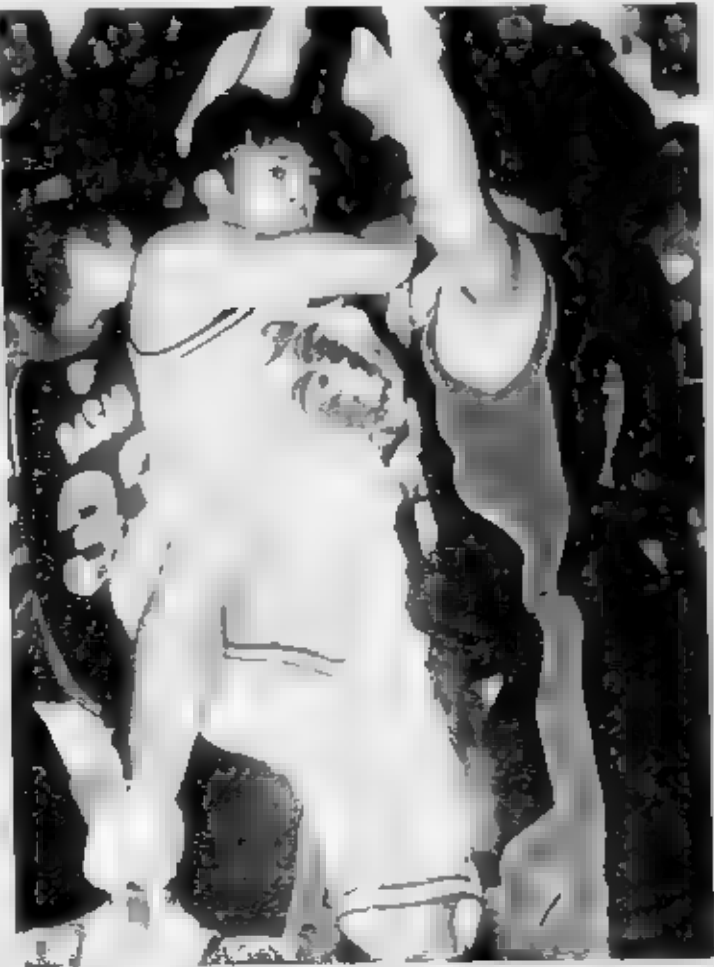
GAME TODAY
(Olivarez Sports Center)
3 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Harbour Centre

Holding a 2-1 lead, the Sparks bungled the chance to bag their first title when the Portmasters, who are also seeking a maiden crown, convincingly claimed Game 4 with a 73-55 triumph last Thursday.

Point guards LA Tenorio and Chico Lanete pushed the series to a deciding Game 5 by combining for 35 points for Harbour, which got a measly point from Yeo.

The Sparks, who won the odd-numbered games of the series, also missed the services of starting forward Aaron Aban due to a sprained wrist.

"If Aaron was around, they



HARBOUR Centre's Jerwin Gaco tries to get a shot off Toyota Otis' Joseph Casio (left) and Dennis Daa in Game Four.

wouldn't have dominated the boards," said Sparks coach Louie. "He really wanted to play."

The Portmasters won the battle off the boards, 51-37, despite the presence of the Sparks' 6-foot-7 centers Mark Andaya and Fil-Am Joe Devance.

The Portmasters bench also outscored the Sparks' relievers, 42-23.

Alas said everything will boil down to execution.

"If we want to win the series,

we have to be sharp on both ends of the court," he said. "If we can't execute our plays, then we will have a hard time stopping Harbour Centre."

After Toyota Otis claimed the opener at 68-51, Harbour Centre leveled the series in Game 2 with a 78-63 victory.

The Sparks then moved on the verge of winning the crown with an 83-80 win in Game 3, but the Portmasters forged a winner-take-all match with a 73-55 win.

Valencia, P'gasinan advance to NBC semifinal

A COUPLE OF REVERSALS marked wild-card playoff matches in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship Thursday with favored Forward Taguig and North Cotabato getting the doot.

The former Northern Division champion Taguig of Mayor Freddie Tinga fell to the Pangasinan Hundred Islands, 68-71, at the C.P. Tinga gym in Taguig City while the North Cotabato Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol succumbed to the Valencia Golden Harvest of Mayor Jose Galarza Jr., 72-75, also at its own court in Kidapawan.

The shocking wins shoved Hundred Islands and Golden Harvest into the semifinals.

Valencia will go up against defending champion Ozamiz Coma while the Pangasinanense, backed by the Pangasinan Amateur Basketball Association led by its president Mayor Hernani Braganza will face North's top team, Spring Cooking Oil-Parañaque, in the semifinals.

Spring five, Bahrain dispute title

SPRING COOKING OIL BLASTED AFAOFI, a Filipino-Bahraini team, 98-80, Thursday to barge into the finals of the fourth Bahrain-Philippines Goodwill Games at the Juffair Youth Center gym here.

Ex-PBA star Nelson Asaytono powered NBC president Nathaniel "Nate" Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters to the lopsided triumph with 17 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Six-foot-seven Hassan Abdul Nabi and Bong de Guzman led the RP-Bahrain combination with 23 and 20 points, respectively.

"I think we have a good chance against the Bahrain national team in the finals," said Spring coach Yong Garcia.



DEL ROSARIO: All-events

tournament in placing third in the men's Associate Masters.

Lecaros' 300 propelled him to third behind champion Joey Velez (2004) and Carlos Candano (1980) with 1936.

Lynn Tan, playing for TCBA, claimed the ladies' Associate Masters with a 1768 total.

Del Rosario, Korean win; Lecaros shines

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NATIONAL TEAM STALWARTS captured most of the major awards despite a serious foreign challenge in Class O Thursday night in the 35th PBC-Boysen International Open Jempin Bowling Championships at the Green Valley lanes in Pasig City.

Former Asian Games and World Championship gold medalist Liza del Rosario clinched the ladies' All-Events plum, besting Malaysia's Wan Nur Aniqqa,

1747-1733. Liza Clutario, the 2004 Southeast Asian Games Masters champ, bagged third place with a 1726 total.

The men's All-Events went to Korean Seo Jung Hwan, the current top qualifier for the Masters competitions who amassed 1991 to beat former RP team coach Purvis Granger, 1991-1837. Markwin Tee was third with an 1833 total.

But 13-year-old Anjo Lecaros stole the thunder from the more experienced winners by rolling fourth perfect game of the

Aunzo hits 2 birdies, ties Bayron

DAVAO—UNHERALDED FERDIE Aunzo birdied the last two holes to forge into a tie with Jay Bayron for the second-round lead yesterday in the Samsung Tour third leg at the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club course.

The 25-year-old Aunzo, who grew up in Davao like his childhood friend Bayron but is now playing for Eastridge, shot a five-under-par 67 to claim a piece of the lead at 138.

Bayron, who broke the course record with a 64 spiked by an ace in the first round, soared to a 74 and lost his overnight seven-stroke advantage.

The co-leaders held a three-shot lead over Mark Fernando (69-141), with Caddies Open standout Joseph Labajo (69-142) and Gene Bondoc (70-142).

The five others who made the 35-hole cut were Mike Bibat (71-143), Miko Yee (72-144), Jonel Ababa (70-145), Louie Dacudao (72-146), Bobby Jaraña (74-146) and Romeo Deplio (86-161).

Crystal Superal, Imee Garcia and Beth Kimura emerged as the first three winners by topping the ladies' Class A (71-70), ladies' Class B (79-82), and ladies' Class C (90-93-183), in that order.

P300,000 RICHER

Pucay rules PGAP by 1

TAGAYTAY CITY—MARS PUCAY CAME back from three strokes off the pace with a second successive 3-under-par 69 yesterday to win the P1 million PGAP championship at the Splendido here.

The long-hitting Baguio native nailed down eight birdies, the last coming on the par-4 16th hole that boosted him past three-day leader Antonio Lascuña by a shot in the tournament presented by Jesus B Bustamante Jr.

Lascuña, the former The Country Club Invitational winner, wound up with a 73 for

a 281 tally, three clear of the third-placed Richard Sinfuego, who submitted a 70.

"Practice has been paying off well," said Pucay, the former caddy hunkered by Mizuno and Mesaland of his second win of the year worth P300,000.

Pucay quickly pulled even with Lascuña by birdieing his first four holes.

Former Philippine Open champion Casus Casas closed out with a similar 69 for a level 288 and fourth place.

The event was mainly sponsored by JP Golf Korea and backed by Kim Hyoung-rim.



PEÑA: New car



SY: Car set-up woes

GUANGDONG—EVERYTHING FELL INTO place for the Philippines' Dado Peña Friday as he blazed through the Zhuhai International Circuit second quickest in his new Dallara 304 car in the last official practice run of the Asian Formula Three series' fourth round here.

Peña negotiated the 4.3-kilometer Zhuhai Circuit in 1 minute, 36.527 seconds, which stood as the day's best until Irishman Ali Jackson of Aran Racing clipped it by two-tenths of a second in an extra lap.

"I feel confident," said Peña, 18, lead driver of team Goddard who is running 11th

in the series with 22 points. "I know it's not going to be given to me on a silver platter. At the end of the day, you're going to have to work for it."

"We got a pretty good chance," said team Goddard principal Mark Goddard. "Dado's been always in the pace or near the pace, so it's going to be interesting."

Sy, who swept the first three rounds in Batangas last month, came up with the fourth best time, behind Indon Moreno Soeprapto of Aran Racing. But like Peña, he was confident he could put it all together in the race for pole position Saturday.

"We still couldn't find the best setup for the car, unlike in Batangas when everything went right," said Sy, 18, one of three Speedtech drivers, along with lady driver Gabby dela Merced and the comebacking Roland Hermoso, in the field.

Jackson, a newcomer in the series along with Briton Dillon Battistini, who submitted the fifth best time Friday, clocked 1:36.316.

Soeprapto, taking over from Irishman John O'Hara at Aran Racing, timed 1:36.555, third best in the event backed by Yokohama and pitmypad. (Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net and

www.mypad.net for race updates.)

Battistini, who posted a pair of stunning runner-up finishes last month despite driving at the Batangas Racing Circuit for the first time, clocked a fifth-best 1:37.285.

Thirteen drivers will contest pole position Saturday among them Aran Racing's James Winslow of Britain, who struggled for the second straight day of practice runs.

Winslow is running third in this year's series with 32 points, a point off Battistini.

The field includes Macau's Chao Loumang who is competing in the Promotions class for cars with chassis built in 2000 and older.

Caidic launches 'The Triggerman'

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

FOR THE FIRST time in his 43 years, Ginebra team manager Allan Caidic celebrated his birthday in a unique way, and in a most unlikely place—a bookstore!

Simultaneous with his birthday bash, Allan launched his autobiographical book, "Allan Caidic, The Triggerman," at the National Bookstore at the Shangri-La Mall. The invitation was for 6 p.m. of June 15.

Allan said he expected friends and associates—people who had touched his life in a significant way—to be at the launch.

People were starting to mill outside the bookstore when I arrived just before 6 last Thursday.

I read in a spirits' book years ago that on a person's birthday, he is given a fresh ration of energy or life force that would last him the entire year until his next birthday.

A person must use this energy wisely and even try to generate more through various means, otherwise, he is likely to go "low bat" way before his next ration.

The book said the reason why a person is usually susceptible to accidents, illnesses and other negative occurrences just before his birthday is because he has used up his life force for the year.

In Allan's case, he looked like he just got his fresh ration last Thursday night. He was in such high spirits you could practically feel the electricity oozing from him. Allan shook every well-wisher's hand with vigor and "be-so-besed" the lady-guests with glee.

Allan's guests represented different generations in Philippine basketball. The "blast from the past" cast included his University of the East mentor Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan, who was reunited with him in the PBA's defunct Presto team, and his Warrior teammates Jerry Codinera and George Ella.

Red Bull assistant coach Roehl Nadarata, another former coach, was there to join the festivities. From afar, I thought that the silver-haired gentleman chatting with Roehl and Baby D was newly appointed UAAP commissioner Elmer Yanga. On closer scrutiny, I was surprised to see that it was former Presto team manager Ignacio Gotao, who was also the team's representative to the PBA board.

The real Elmer Yanga walked in much later.

I didn't make a head count, but I believe the Ginebra Kings, led by coach Siot Tan-quinquen who was accompanied by his wife, came in full force. Also gracing the affair were San Miguel Corp.'s Henry Cojuangco, Robert Non and Jan Cabalan, Allan's fellow team managers, old chums Samboy Lim and Hector Calma, and PBA coaches Jong Uichico and Binky Ravis.

The affair was truly star-studded, the small venue filled.

The party was still in full swing when my pal Rhea Navarro and I decided to take a French leave, with the intention of returning.

Bumping into Siot and his wife on their way to one of the pizza restaurants, I couldn't help but inquire about his heavily bandaged arm, which I didn't notice in the past, probably because it was flesh-colored.

"What happened?" I asked. "Katangahan (stupidity)," was Siot's short explanation.

I told him he was lucky his bones didn't get crushed.

"But they did," he said, making me more curious as to the cause of the injury.

"I'll bet you smashed the brick wall with your bare hands after the Kings lost," I joked.

Siot just laughed. I guessed right.

The morning after, I texted Allan for some post-celebration notes.

He said it was his happiest and most memorable birthday ever and he had a long list of people and entities to thank for this. He mentioned San Miguel Corp., Ginebra, Accel, Tamayo's Catering, Kolins TV, Adas Publication and National Bookstore. He also thanked kumpare Reli de Leon, and writers Tito Talao, Dulce de la Cruz, and last but not least, yours truly.



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Q/R/T)—Spark (4), Shang Ocean (2), Wholly Billy (6), Wharfedale (1)
Race 2—(P/M/O/T)—Beng Bang (1), Far Lashed (4), Pedro Dollar (6), Mito Little Africa (2), Saver (5)
Race 3—(O/R/T)—Miss Victory (6), Blue Print (1), Golden Mistic (9), Princess Ashley (5), Bombadier (5)
Race 4—(O/R/T)—Chaseaway (1), Sweet Talk (2), Ted Henry (3), Tiger (5)
Race 5—(Q/R/T)—Luminy Ago (7), Best in Class (2), Golden Act (4)
Race 6—(P/M/O/T)—Empire Lady (9), Silver Pagoda No (4), Baby's Dream (5), Express Stride (8), Karsimakov (3)
Race 7—(P/M/O/T)—Mendales (5), Beagle Two (1), Angel Of Light (4)
Race 8—(P/M/O/T)—Look Of Love (1), Look Of Love (1), West II West (2), Sever Chee Coo (3), Phruetta (10), Yoshimura (3)
Race 9—(O/R/T)—Veronica Shantay Aly (4), Buster Shant (1), Speed Of Life (6), Party Queen (3)
Race 10—(P/M/O/T)—Hale And Hearty (7), Remain (10), Wild On (5), Range Of Face (1), Lady Cathy (6)
Race 11—(O/R/T)—Penelope (12), Honore (6), Chicklet (10), Drink In Drink (4), Nemy Binky (3), Smooth Binky (2)

Colt 45
PREMIUM STRONG BEER

Todo Lakas!

NBA Championship Update**DALLAS MAVERICKS 2****MIAMI HEAT 2**

GAME 1 Dallas - 90
Miami - 80

GAME 2 Dallas - 99
Miami - 85

GAME 3 Miami - 98
Dallas - 96

GAME 4 Miami - 98
Dallas - 74

Heat tie Finals as Wade shines



MIAMI guard Dwyane Wade (middle) celebrates the Heat's performance in Game 4.

Series down to a best-of-three

MIAMI—THE MIAMI HEAT RODE A SPECTACULAR 36-point performance by guard Dwyane Wade to crush the Dallas Mavericks 98-74 and level the NBA Finals at 2-2 on Thursday.

With Miami leading 59-50 early in the third quarter, Wade scored eight points and Shaquille O'Neal added five during a 13-2 streak that stretched the lead to 72-52.

Dallas's last chance came during an 11-2 run that extended into the final quarter and cut the lead to 80-70, but Miami went on a 16-2 spurt that took the score to 94-72 with just over three minutes to play.

"It was a big game for us today," Heat coach Pat Riley, whose team held high-scoring Dallas to just seven points in the final period, told reporters.

"I think once you start to see the possibilities—we're both at 14 wins (in the playoffs), we're both two wins away—it becomes as much will as it is execution."

Wade, who scored 42 points in Game Three, hit 13 of 23 shots and eight of nine free throws. The 6-foot-4, 210-pound guard has been unstoppable in the series, averaging 32.3 points.

"It's a series now," said Wade. "It's 2-2, the way we knew it was going to be if we came out and played the way the Miami Heat can play. A lot of people have been doubting us and we thrive off that. We've been doubted all year. Now, it's best-of-three. Looking hard to the next game."

The best-of-seven contest resumes on Sunday in Miami before shifting to Dallas for Game Six on Tuesday and, if necessary, Game Seven.

O'Neal had his most productive game of the series, scoring 17 points and grabbing 13 rebounds as Miami outscored the Mavericks underneath 42-26.

"We try to keep them off the paint," O'Neal said. "They are a very, very dangerous team. You really can't give them both."

"They really missed a lot of shots and they are probably going to come really, really hard on Sunday. We have to be prepared."

Jason Terry contributed 17 points and Dirk Nowitzki and Jerry Stackhouse 16 each for Dallas, who shot just 31.6 percent for the game.

Nowitzki misfired all night, hitting only two of 14 shots. The Mavericks entered the game shooting 38 percent from beyond the arc but hit only three of 22 Thursday. *Reuters*

Colt 45
PREMIUM STRONG BEER

Todo Lakas!

Walang tatalo sa lakas ng mas pinalakas na Colt 45.



ENGLAND'S lanky striker Peter Crouch jumps above Trinidad and Tobago's Brent Sancho to head in a goal.

England, Ecuador, Germany gain 2nd round

BERLIN—ENGLAND AND ECUADOR ADVANCED to the second round of the World Cup with wins Thursday, and host Germany was dragged into the next phase along with them.

Ecuador beat Costa Rica, 3-0, in Hamburg, and the win was enough to send the South Americans into the knockout round along with Germany. They'll play for first place in Group A on Tuesday.

The hosts also qualified with Ecuador's win. Costa Rica and Poland have been eliminated.

England, which used Wayne Rooney as a second-half substitute, advanced after late goals from Peter Crouch and Steven Gerrard gave the 1966 World Cup champion a 2-0 win over Trinidad and Tobago in Group B.

Later Thursday, Sweden got an 89th-minute goal from Fredrik Ljungberg to nip Paraguay 1-0.

Crouch headed in a cross by David Beckham in the 83rd minute, and Gerrard added another in injury time to give England its second straight win at the tournament.

England controlled play for most of the game in Nuremberg, but missed countless good chances, raising Trinidad's hopes of a second

straight 0-0 draw in its first World Cup.

"It would be fair to say that you haven't seen the best of us yet, but we put ourselves in a good position. We know we can play better," Beckham said.

Rooney, who broke his right foot on April 29, came on as a substitute in the 58th minute. He replaced Michael Owen.

Rooney was cleared to play earlier in the day by independent British doctors. He has been training with the England squad since June 5.

Beckham took his time and found Crouch in front of the Trinidad net late in the second half. Crouch leapt over Brent Sancho and headed the ball past Shaka Hislop for England's first second-half goal in a World Cup since 1998.

The English had gone eight games without a second-half World Cup goal since Owen scored against Romania in 1998.

"England got so much position on the ball," said Trinidad striker Dwight Yorke. *AP*

12 a.m.—England vs. Trinidad & Tobago (replay tomorrow 4 p.m.)

1 p.m.—Sweden vs. Paraguay

English helpless without Rooney

NUREMBERG, GERMANY—ENGLAND WITHOUT Wayne Rooney is like a car without an engine. Going nowhere.

Finally back from a broken foot, Rooney played the last 32 minutes of England's 2-0 World Cup victory over Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday. He didn't score or make any contribution to the late goals by Peter Crouch and Steven Gerrard that guaranteed England a place in the second round.

He didn't need to.

Rooney's first World Cup appearance lifted the confidence of the players and transformed England from a team of fumbleheads to a dangerous side.

When he did enter the game, there was always danger when England attacked. He used his speed to chase through balls and ran at defenders, always threatening to shoot. While Trinidad surrounded him with three markers, that left far more room for his teammates to set up chances.

Without Rooney, England looks clueless.

Rooney has the ability to get the best out of the other talented players on the England team. When he's not there, these experienced players, who have been together for at least two years, act like a team of total strangers.

While Rooney sat on the bench, he joined the 30,000 or so frustrated England fans wondering how their team was struggling against one of the complete outsiders in the 32-team competition. *AP*

Of witch doctors and wizards

HANOVER—ANGOLA'S COACH ON THURSDAY hit out at a Portuguese media report which said the team had brought a witch doctor to the World Cup. Luis Oliveira Goncalves rejected the report and accused broadcaster RTP of showing disrespect to his team. "I want to make a statement because RTP is saying we brought a witch doctor with us to the World Cup," Goncalves said.

Angola made their World Cup finals debut last week against Portugal and were not disgraced in losing 1-0. Mexico's grand wizard carries out two rituals a day for the country's World Cup team, invoking "Holy Death" in front of a plastic skeleton to protect them and bring them luck. He has predicted that Mexico will reach the last eight and Germany will beat Brazil in the final. *AFP*

SPORTS



COLIN Montgomerie hits out of bunker on 13.

All about Colin

Steady 69 puts Montgomerie in midst of US Open spotlight

MAMARONECK, NEW YORK—WHEN HE walked off the course at Winged Foot with the lead in the US Open, Colin Montgomerie knew he couldn't hide anymore.

All those people who spent the past week talking to Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods now wanted to speak to a player who had gone nine years since last standing atop the leaderboard at the US Open.

Soon after signing a card which included four birdies in a 1-under 69 on Thursday, Montgomerie was asked if he minded Mickelson and Woods getting all the attention before the tournament.

"I'm not insulted at all. Phil's won the last two majors, so you can't not talk about that and Tiger," Montgomerie said. "It took the pressure off. When I used to come here in the '90s for this tournament, yes, you were talking about me more. So if you don't mind, let's not talk about me anymore. Ignore this whole conversation, and I'll start again tomorrow."

Montgomerie can only hope Friday goes as well as Thursday, when he bounced back after bo-

geying two of the first three holes. By making three birdies and seven pars over the final 10 holes, the best player never to win a major appeared very capable of ending that drought.

He goes into the second round one stroke ahead of Mickelson and seven ahead of Woods.

Playing for the first time since his father died, Woods ended a nine-week layoff with bogeys on his first three holes that sent him to his highest start ever in the US Open. He had to play the final six holes 1 under par to escape with a 6-over 76.

Masters champion Mickelson got off to a solid start in his bid for a third straight major, making a pair of 30-foot birdie putts and a bunch of short ones for par that proved equally important. He wound up at even-par 70, along with Jim Furyk, David Howell, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Steve Stricker.

Vijay Singh, coming off his first victory of the season last week at Westchester, had a steady round of 71 to join former Masters champion Mike Weir, John Cook and Fred Funk, who celebrated his 50th birthday on Wednesday.

AP

Lady Stags battle Lady Archers anew

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	11	0
SSC	7	4
Adamson	7	4
FEU	5	6
Lyceum	4	7

GAMES TODAY
(Blue Eagle Gym)
12 noon—Lyceum vs. FEU
2 p.m.—La Salle vs. SSC

SAN SEBASTIAN RETURNS FOR some unfinished business against La Salle even as Far Eastern tries to keep its title bid going in the second round of the Shakey's V-League semifinals at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Lady Stags, who boast high-scoring import Thai Jaroen-sri Bualae, hope to finally pin a first loss on the Lady Archers after coming so close to achieving the

feat in their last meeting.

"We know we can beat them (La Salle), it's just a matter of conditioning our minds," said San Sebastian mentor Roger Gerayeb, whose team led La Salle in the early going last June 2 only to sputter down the stretch. That 25-21, 25-23, 9-25, 21-25, 5-15 loss plus the fact that La Salle is in the finals may work in the Lady Stags' favor in their 2 p.m. tussle.

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Keanu, Sandra test fate, love in tearjerker

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Lake House"

D: Alejandro Agresti
S: Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock

TWELVE YEARS AFTER their career-defining team-up in "Speed," Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock are back in each other's arms for Hollywood's glossy but disjointed adaptation of Hyun Seung Lee's moving Korean love story, "Il Mare."

Alejandro Agresti's mystical, romance revolves around Alex (Reeves), a restless architect, and Kate (Bullock), a lonely doctor, who exchange letters through a magical mailbox while living two years apart—he's in 2004, she's in 2006—in a picturesque house by the lake.

The film's

pace occasionally trudges—and confuses: It doesn't even attempt to explain the strange things that happen between the two protagonists. But, it nevertheless works on the strength of Reeves and Bullock's scorching chemistry, which ignites sparks on the big screen.

The stories of "Il Mare" and Johnny To's "Sky of Love" (starring "Meteor Garden's" Ken Zhu) may be better handled, but in Sandra and Keanu's earnest performances (they smartly avoid schmaltzy histrionics), you'll believe that love knows no time—and ignore

the story's contrivances.

Kate—as does the movie—poses a valid question: "What if you wait for your special someone your whole life, and later learn that no one is really waiting for you?"

But, true love is worth taking chances for. Sometimes, you don't know why things work out, they just do.

If you're a hopeless romantic who believes in destiny and the power of prayer, don't be surprised if "The Lake House" sweeps you off your feet.

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A2

SATURDAYSpecial

The fun in being Mitch Valdes

By Andy Bais



VALDES. Humor carries a degree of responsibility.

IN HIGH SCHOOL, Mitch Valdes was the "resident entertainer" who entertained her classmates during recess. "But, I didn't know I had a sense of humor. I thought it came naturally because, in my family, cracking jokes was a way of life."

When Mitch ventured into the movies, she thought it was an opportunity to tackle serious roles for a change. To her dismay, she was still given comic roles in films! "Ayokong nabababid sa isang medium at style. Gusto ko, smorgasbord. Pero dito sa atin, kapag smorgasbord, hindi ka yeyaman," she laughs. But, she's glad that people eventually accepted her as a singer.

Styles

When asked to describe her comedic style, she explains: "I just want to be myself onstage—no mask or camouflage. My humor doesn't come from a written character, but from personal experiences. Minsan, comedy doesn't have a punchline—it's the situation that makes it funny!"

Mitch performs her lounge acts without a full script. She lists down

topics she can expound on. "You don't know what's going to work until opening night because, there are no rehearsals. It drives me crazy, but it works," she confides.

However, the show's musical numbers are a different matter. She says, "I hire only the best musicians and singers. Para kang nanonood ng play—ako nga lang ang singer, dancer at taga-kuwento. At ang script, tingkol sa buhay ko."

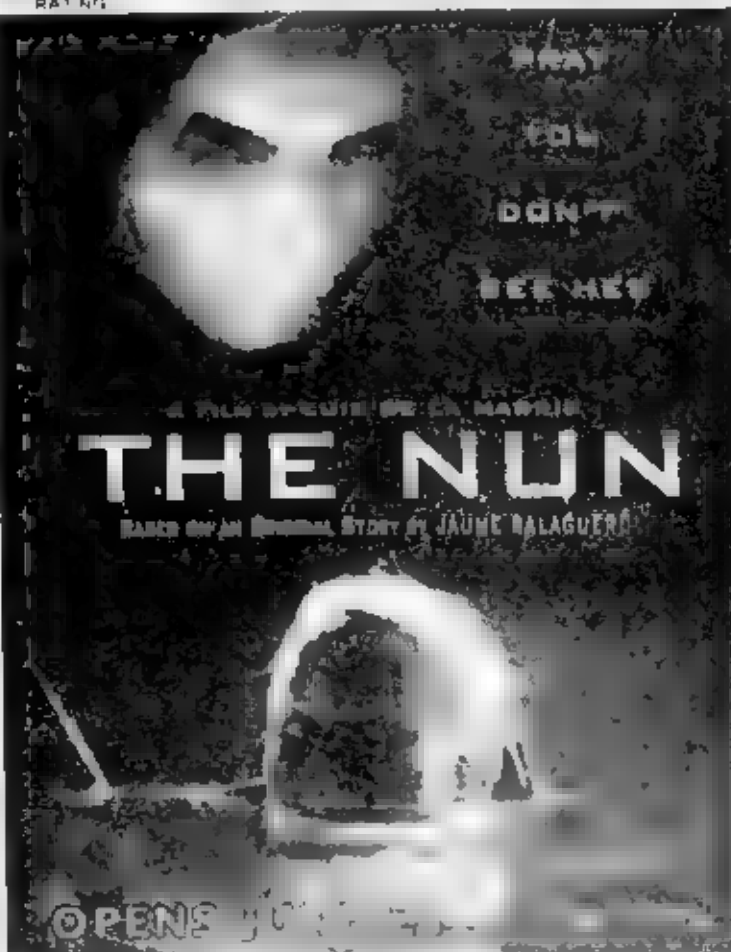
Integrity

For Mitch, humor carries a degree of responsibility. She doesn't take it lightly. She believes that "a comedic gift has to be treated with integrity. I keep the dignity of the comedian, not the clown."

Her latest show, "Been De, Bin Dat," which goes onstage all Fridays of this month at the Mandarin Oriental's Captain's Bar, consists of Mitch's observations as a performer on TV and in films.

Mitch discusses personal issues—including her love life. She admits putting "a lot of heart and soul into the show. You will leave the theater thinking you know me very well!"

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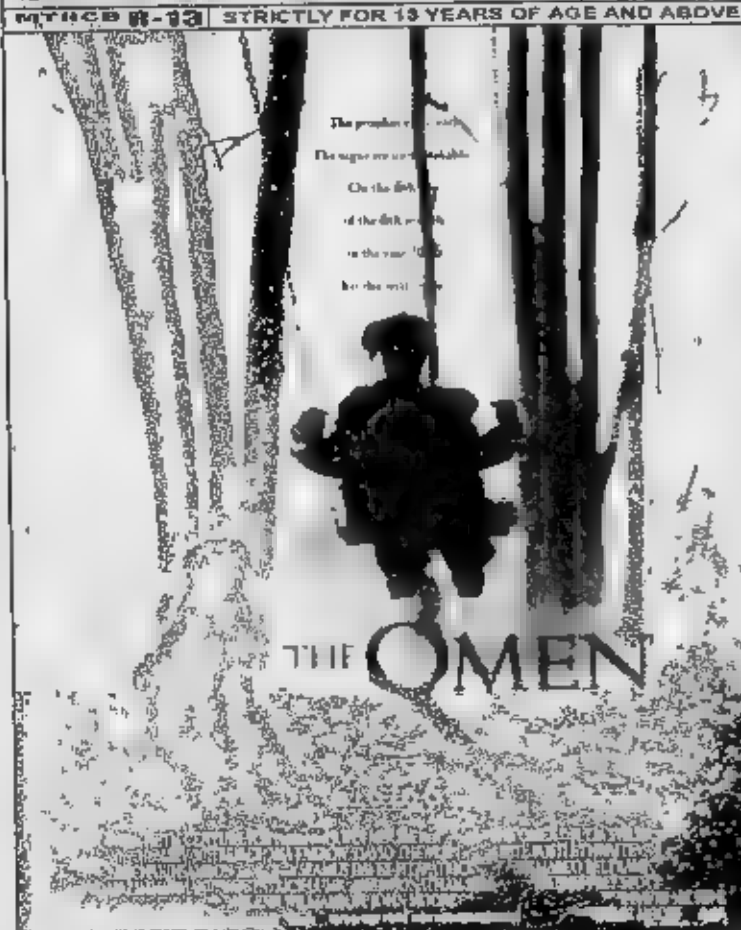
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<p>SM NORTH LODGE FAST AND FURIOUS KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUS THE OMEN XMEN III CARS GARFIELD 2 LAKE HOUSE AMERICAN HAUNTING</p>	<p>SM CITY EASTVIEW AMERICAN HAUNTING TAKE THE LEAD MANAY PO XMEN III GARFIELD KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUS FAST AND FURIOUS CARS LAKE HOUSE THE OMEN ALL ABOUT LOVE INSIDE MAN</p>	<p>SM CITY SAN LAZARO FAST AND FURIOUS LAKE HOUSE GARFIELD 2 CARS THE OMEN KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUS SM SUPERCENTRE WALKERBROS FAST AND FURIOUS LAKE HOUSE KAPAG TUMBOK ANG PUS CHAOS</p>
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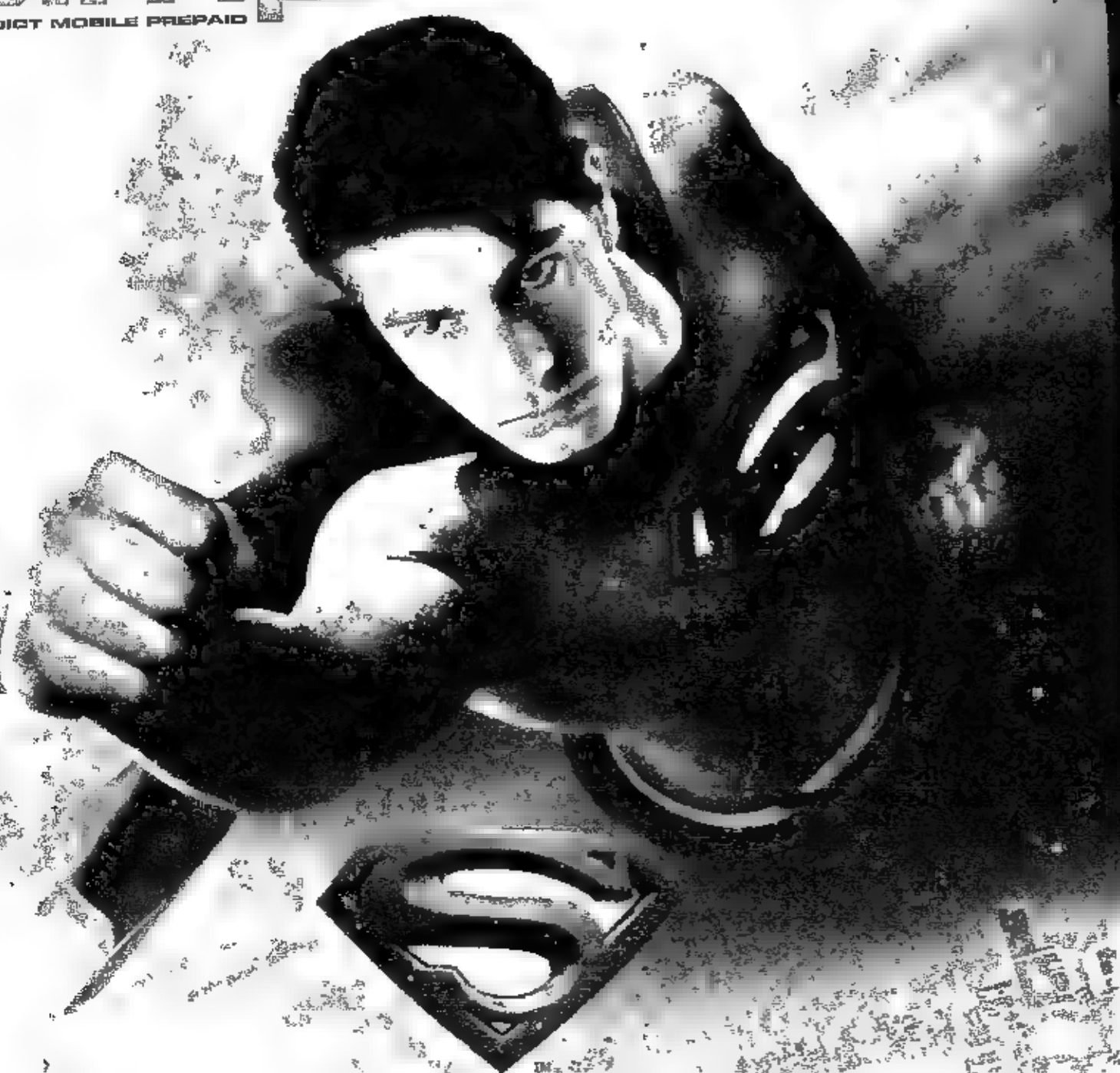
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Setting a very good example

By Nestor U. Torre



AGUSTIN. Has opted to do the right thing.

WE CONGRATULATE Sharon Cuneta for resuming her education. She's been talking about doing it for years, so it's great that she's finally going to school again—even if it's "only" on home study, or "e" mode.

Fact is, the home study aspect of Sharon's education makes it even more interesting and instructive, because it shows other people that there are many options now available to them if they have special requirements or schedules.

Personal reasons

Sharon may have resumed her studies for personal reasons, but her Megastar status has focused the media spotlight on it, and this has enabled her to set a good example for many people to resume their own interrupted studies. Good for you, Sharon.

Also worthy of commendation is Marvin Agustín's loyalty to and honesty about his incarcerated father, who was recently released from prison after many years.

Instead of sweeping the family "scandal" under the rug, as some celebrities have, Marvin has been forthright in informing the public about his father's situation through the years.

Chronically insecure

This isn't easy to do, because show biz people are chronically insecure about sustaining their careers' upward trajectory, which can be easily compromised by the merest whiff of personal scandal.

But, Marvin has opted to do the right thing in standing up for his father, and the public has appreciated his honesty and loyalty. Thus, it has supported his career through thick and thin, and he remains a popular young star to this day.

We trust that Marvin's good example has taught others to be similarly forthright about their problems or difficult situations in life.

Celebrity legs to die for

By Behn Cervantes

WHEN YOU THINK of beautiful legs, Marlene Dietrich immediately comes to mind. The German sex siren displayed her perfectly-shaped legs in "The Blue Angel."



GRABLE. Popularly known as the "Bathing Beauty."

Musicals

Betty Grable danced in Hollywood musicals that showed off her well-publicized pair of legs. However, she is best remembered as the enticing "Bathing Beauty" from her famous poster shoot. Her legs were so beautiful they were reportedly insured for a hefty million bucks. For this reason, Grable's assets were often referred to as the "million-dollar legs."

Also known for her shapely legs was Ann Miller, one of Hollywood's best tap dancers. Her legs were even shapelier than Grable's.

However, the most memorable pair of legs really belonged to the silver screen's classiest dancer, Cyd Charisse. Her long legs were the envy of women everywhere.

In the early '60s, Angie Dickinson was touted to have perfect legs. The tall blonde is remembered for her appearances in films like "Rio Bravo."

Male counterparts

However, these beauties had male counterparts in Tinseltown. Fred Astaire was known as Daddy Long Legs. In "The Pirate," Gene Kelly wore tights that displayed his muscular legs.

Even macho stars were noted for their legs. Burt Lancaster, a former acrobat, showed off a shapely pair in "From Here to Eternity," when he figured in a torrid love scene on a beach with Deborah Kerr. For his part, Tony Curtis proudly displayed his legs in his early costume flicks.

Even the greatest actor of the 20th century, Sir Laurence Olivier, wore tights in "Hamlet." Like Hollywood's glamorous vixens, Sir Laurence believed that, if you've got them, you gotta show them!

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SATURDAY Special

Fatherhood becomes Julius

By Tintin Bersola Babao

WHEN I PRAYED FOR A PARTNER in life, I didn't just ask for someone who would love, respect and honor me as his wife. I wanted a man who would be an ideal father to my children. But, God gave me more than I expected in the person of Julius Babao.

But, who is Julius up close? Is he really as serious as the news anchor we see on the small screen?

Approachable

He is a funny, down-to-earth guy who cracks jokes and tells funny stories. He is most amusing when he mimics famous actors and politicians. And he is approachable: *Wala syang pumipiling tao*. Yet, he has an uncanny ability to distinguish *kung sino ang manloloka at kung sino ang hindi*.

People are always surprised when they see my husband in person: "Ay, ang guwapo mo pala!" "Mas payat ka pala at matangkad!" Julius has gotten used to hearing these remarks, so he just smiles.

Looking mature on TV is, in fact, a plus factor when one is a male news an-

chor—some people believe it enhances credibility.

But, beyond his physical attributes, Julius' true assets lie in his strength of character.

Once, we almost figured in a vehicular accident when the car in front of us suddenly stopped. But, Julius kept his cool, and was even more concerned about the car's driver who turned out to be an old man—with his grandchildren seated in the automobile's back seat! Unknown to many, my husband is cool and composed.

Test of character

But, the true test of character came last year when Julius was wrongly accused by no less than the president of our country of codding a suspected terrorist. The situation became a make-or-break trial for him, and could have ruined his broadcast-journalism career. But his conscience was clear. Instead of becoming confrontational about it, he humbled himself, took a leave of absence while ABS-CBN was investigating the incident, and kept a low profile.

It was during those darkest hours that Julius' true mettle shone through. In our

private moments, he worried deeply about the welfare of his family. He didn't worry so much about people judging him unfairly, but he was concerned about losing me and our daughter Antonia.

Those dark moments brought us closer as a family, and our spiritual life grew even deeper.

In the end, truth and justice prevailed, and Julius' name was cleared. God was on our side.

Loving and playful

How is Julius as a father? He is a loving and playful dad. His parenting skills are instinctive. Antonia beams with delight each time her daddy comes home, because she knows what's coming—playtime—from *habulan* and hide-and-seek to lift-me-dad games.

He is also a conservative father. When he sees scantily-clad teenagers in malls, he remarks: "Paglaki ni Antonia, hindi puwede ang ganyan kaikang miniskirt!" Oh, I can imagine how strict a father he'll be!

Like other doting dads, he's thrilled to see his daughter's pictures in the papers.



THE BABAOS
Primary focus on family life.

on TV, print ads and billboards. He is pleased to have his "mini-me" in Antonia.

Investigative program

Career-wise, Julius' hands are full. He anchors "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas" daily, does reportorial work, co-anchors "TV Patrol" every night, writes for a tabloid, co-anchors "Magandang Morning with Julius and Tintin" on dzMM, co-hosts the top rating investigative program, "XXX," etc.

Yet he finds time for our home and family life. He plays with our daughter, watches DVDs with me, supervises our home's carpentry and plumbing needs, and even buys the plants for our house-

hold. Julius is the man of the house!

Date nights

Saturday nights are date nights for the two of us—we watch a movie, shop and dine out. Sundays are reserved for the family—we take Antonia to attend classes or play at Gymboree.

So, how do I describe my husband? He is inherently a good man. He doesn't have a vice—doesn't smoke, drink, gamble, or womanize. His only "vice" is his profession.

I know I am guilty of putting my husband on a pedestal. But, why not? After all, despite his share of weaknesses and imperfections, daddy Julius has earned my love, respect and admiration. Happy Father's Day, Julius!



MUHLACH with his four-year-old twins, Andres and Atasha.

Aga Muhlach, 'Ulirang Ama'

AT 9 A.M. TOMORROW, AGA Muhlach will receive the 2006 Ulirang Ama award from the National Mother's Day and Father's Day Foundation. The awards' executive committee is led by Honorary Chairman Secretary Angelo Reyes. Dr. Rodolfo I. Talag is the awards committee chairperson, and Baby O'Brien is director for special projects.

"I thank my children for this rare honor," Aga enthuses. He is father to twins, Atasha and Andres, by Charlene Gonzales-Bonilla, and an older son, Angelo Luigi, by Janice de Belen.

'Child of Our Time 2005'

This month, the Hallmark Channel treats viewers to the continuing stories of "Child of Our Time 2005," a fascinating

program that traces the lives of 25 babies born at the start of the millennium.

MONTAGE

The season premiere is at 7:55 p.m. on June 18, with an encore telecast at 3:15 p.m. on June 19.

The kids are now five-year-olds and have started school. In the following four episodes, Prof. Robert Winston asks significant questions about the children's development: whether class, skin color, gender and nationality are already shaping our young children's sense of who they are and what they expect from life.

He also examines the extent to which the first five years of life impact on school careers, perception of a father's role,

AGA/A3-2

Female perspective through music, poetry

By Rito P. Asilo

IN HIS POEM, "INVICTUS," WILLIAM ERNEST Henley succinctly captures man's unflinching resolve to embrace his destiny: "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

Gender equality

In her quest for gender equality and under-



CONCEPCION, Sassy.

standing, woman—man's supposed better half—had to hurdle more than just psychological musings about destiny and her place in society throughout history. But, times have changed.

And Kooky Tuason's gutsy, passionately provocative albums—the sizzlingly intimate

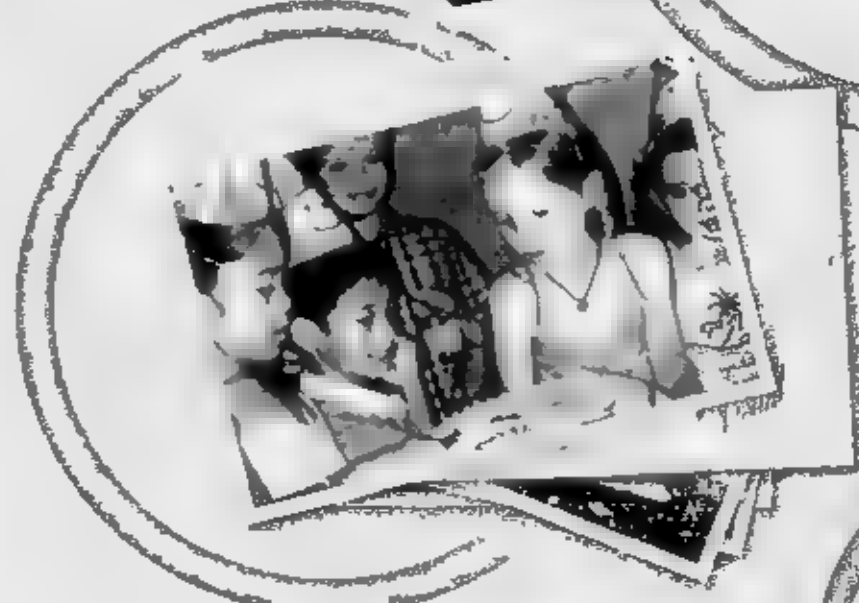
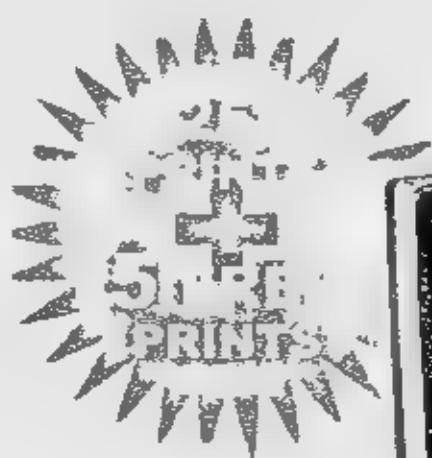
"Romancing Venus" and its more topical, more cerebral sequel, "Romancing Venus 2"—try to seize the fairer sex's perspective in a combustible if capricious fusion of spoken words and music.

The first volume, for instance, features KC Concepcion in her

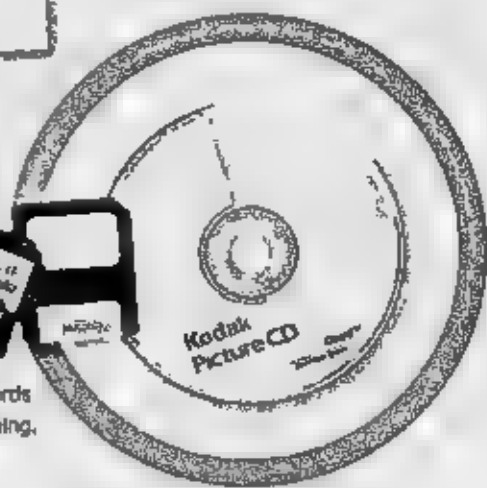
FEMALE/A3-4

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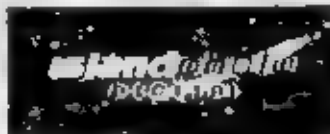


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Promo period is from June 1 to July 31, 2006. Redemption is until August 30, 2006.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1342, Series of 2006.

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GALLERIA

632-8116

1 THE DA VINCI CODE • THX 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00	6 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	7 X-MEN 3 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 CARS 11:40 2:15 4:40 7:25 10:00	8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
4 GARFIELD 2: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	9 TAKE THE LEAD 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5 LAKE HOUSE 11:05 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	10 THE OMEN 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA

632-7800 • 12

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	5 CARS 10:30 12:40 2:50 TAKE THE LEAD 5:30 7:40 10:00
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	6 THE OMEN 10:10 12:30 2:50 X-MEN 3 5:30 7:40 10:00
3 GARFIELD 2 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00	7 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
4 LAKE HOUSE 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	

METRO EAST

632-5193 • 632-5196

1 THE INSIDE MAN THE DA VINCI CODE 1:00 3:35 6:00 9:00	5 THE OMEN X-MEN 3 12:25 2:35 4:45 8:50 9:00
2 CARS 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00	6 LAKE HOUSE 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05	7 GARFIELD 2 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES

635-3231 / 635-3228-30

1 GARFIELD 2	4 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS	5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 THE OMEN / X-MEN 3	6 LAKE HOUSE

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2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO	2 CARS
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3 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO	4 REINCARNATION
	5 X-MEN 3

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3 THE OMEN	3 GARFIELD 2
4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH	4 LAKE HOUSE

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1 THE DA VINCI CODE	1 CARS
2 LAKE HOUSE	2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 THE OMEN	3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 GARFIELD 2: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES	4 GARFIELD 2
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO	5 LAKE HOUSE
6 CARS	6 X-MEN 3 / THE OMEN

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5 AQUAMARINE	6 X-MEN 3
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SATURDAYSpecial

SATURDAY,
JUNE 17, 2006



THE INSIDE MAN PG13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	GARFIELD 2 G 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	THE LAKE HOUSE PG13 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25
CARS G 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20	AMERICAN HAUNTING PG13 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS TOO HOT TO HAND PG13 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

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TAKE THE LEAD

INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

Aga Muhlach ...

From page A3-1

how youths use their leisure time, and how many hours they spend watching TV. Episode 12, "Identity Crisis," features a troubling year for the children as they struggle to come to terms with their identity, piecing together what it means to be a boy or girl, black or white, rich or poor.

'Scary Movie 4'

The hit comedy film, "Scary Movie 4," will hold its inaugural Philippine premiere on June 20 at SM Megamall. No blockbuster movie or pop culture icon is safe from the movie's zany spoofs.

In "Scary Movie 4," the ever-naïve Cindy Campbell (Anna Paris) finds work in a creepy old house that turns out to be full of ghosts and aliens. As she tries to save the world from destruction, Cindy encounters horrific plane crashes, bodacious blind girls, village idiots, disheveled rappers, kinky contraptions, alien sphincters—and even Oprah!



ALANDY AND DA ROSSI. Topbills Gil Portes' latest drama.

'Barcelona'

"Barcelona," the story of a mysterious woman and how she touches the lives of Filipinos in the capital city of Cataluña, Spain, recently wrapped up principal photography. Gil Portes' film topbills Alessandra da Rossi, Luis Alandy, Alan Paule, Tina Paner and Robert Arevalo.

The film captures landmarks like Antonio Gaudi's Sagrada Família and Parc Güell, La Rambla (described by Somerset Maugham as the most beautiful street in the world), Barcelona cathedral and the so-called Filipino church of San Agustín, the monument to Christopher Columbus, Our Lady of Montserrat (a Marian shrine), and the Benedictine Abbey, where La Moreneta (Black Madonna) is enshrined.

MCO Arts Festival

The Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation opens its MCO Arts Festival with a piano concert celebrating Mozart's 250th anniversary on July 7 at the Francisco Sandoval Hall. Featured artist is Aris Caces, a Filipino pianist based in Vienna. Call 897-4359.

Movies on TV

On HBO, June 17 at 9 a.m., "Real Genius." June 18 at 9 p.m., "The Terminal." June 19 at 9:45 a.m., "Pink Cadillac." 6:45 p.m., "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." 9 p.m., "Lorenzo's Oil." June 20 at 10:15 a.m., "The Goodbye Girl." June 21 at 6:30 a.m., "Ned Kelly." June 22 at 1:30 p.m., "Dirty War." 5 p.m., "All the President's Men." June 23 at noon, "The Bourne Supremacy."

On Cinemax, June 17 at 7:45 a.m., "American Gigolo." June 18 at 3:05 a.m., "From Here to Eternity." June 19 at 8 p.m., "Lone Star." June 20 at 11:40 a.m., "Philadelphia." June 21 at 2:40 p.m., "Guarding Tess." 4:10 p.m., "The World of Suzie Wong." June 22 at 1:35 p.m., "The Appaloosa." June 23 at 8 a.m., "That Touch of Mink."

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CARS	AMERICAN HAUNTING	OMEN 666
TAKE THE LEAD	THE DA VINCI CODE	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3
INSIDE MAN	X-MEN 3	GARFIELD 2

ANIMALL CINEMAS

KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO	THE LAKE HOUSE	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3
AMERICAN HAUNTING	GARFIELD 2	

By Noelani Torre

IT'S AN INNOCUOUS ENOUGH SCENE: A woman spraying a hanging plant, hardly a sight to strike terror in your heart. Except for the fact that she just happens to be standing on top of a table near the edge of a balcony, and her son—who, by the way, is evil incarnate—just happens to be wheeling around on a little red tricycle nearby.

Boy and tricycle crash into the table, mommy falls, and the entire sequence becomes one of the classic scenes in the history of horror movies.

Original

In fact, even if you haven't seen the original movie—1976's *"The Omen"*—you'll no doubt find the evil little boy and his tricycle familiar, as you would other pop-culture horror icons like Jason and Chuckie.

Aside from this son-of-the-devil character—who's literally the Antichrist—this movie is also responsible for bringing the triple "6" into popular consciousness, and spawned a number of B-movie sequels.

Though it has a different director (John Moore) and a different cast, the writer (David Seltzer) remains the same.

The story doesn't change. Luv Schreiber is the pedigreed Robert Thorn, an American diplomat in Rome, whose wife Kate (Julia Stiles) gives birth to a stillborn child. A priest in the hospital urges him to adopt an orphaned newborn as a substitute and, without telling his wife, he does so.

The Thorns raise Damien (the alternately angelic and sinister Seamus Davey Fitzpatrick) in England, and they slowly realize that their child isn't quite normal.

There's nothing wrong with the story—it was a good yarn 30 years ago, and it still is now—but, modernizing updates aside, everybody speaks practically the same lines. The changes made are too slight to be compelling.

Fine performances

Schreiber, Stiles, and the British actors (Postlethwaite, Thewlis and Michael Gambon) deliver fine performances, but you wonder what drove them to accept this movie.

FITZPATRICK. Alternately angelic and sinister.

If there's anything original in the 2006 version, it's the casting of Mia Farrow (you know, Rosemary in "Rosemary's Baby") as the nanny/apostate from hell. She gives "The Omen" that touch of camp that it sorely needs.





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1	FAST & FURIOUS 3 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
2 <small>Academy Award Winner</small>	GARFIELD 2 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45 EXTRA! 11:00 GP
3	CARS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 G
4	LAKE HOUSE 1:10, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:30 GP

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2 LAKE HOUSE
2 MTRCB GP
 12 40, 3 00, 5 30, 7 40, 10 30

4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
4 MTRCB PG 13
 12 20, 2 45, 5 10, 7 35, 10 00

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GARFIELD 2
 MTRCB GP

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2 Catch the Cineplex Special

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A3-4

SATURDAYSpecial

Special forum

STREET
SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION of the Philippines' Franco G.V. del Rosario, announces a dinner-forum for CEOs and business leaders that will feature Dr. Rick Warren, author of the best-selling book, "The Purpose-Driven Life," on

July 25, 6 p.m. at the Makati Shangri-La.

Leaders

According to Franco, Warren wants to reach out to leaders of the local business community, who play a key role in national transformation. MAP will host Warren's special fo-



WARREN. Author of "The Purpose-Driven Life."

rum on "Stewardship of Influence and Affluence."

Del Rosario believes that Dr. Warren's talk will greatly influence participants to make a difference in their respective fields.

Warren's wife, Kay, will talk about "Supporting a Spouse of Influence" on July 24 at noon at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

Her books include "Private Lives of Public People" and "Defusing Conflict in Relationships."

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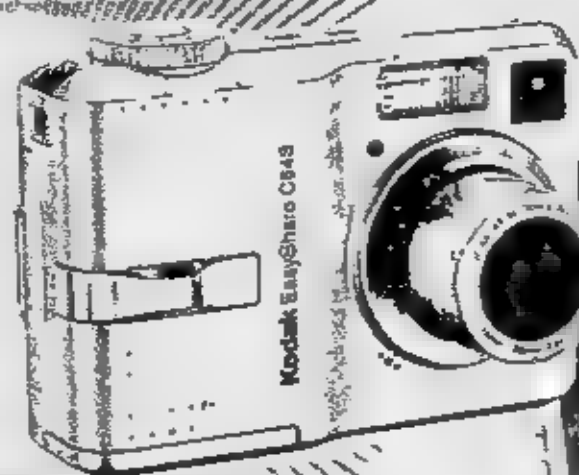
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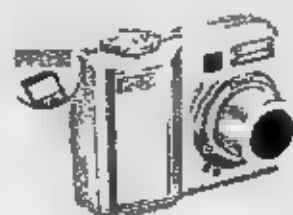
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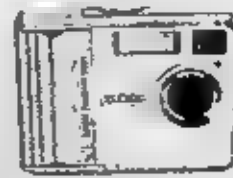
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Versatile

Anabel Bosch sings a soul-stirring rendition of the not-so "Heart Beat" ("Silence killed the heart of steel, fragile at the feel of a soul in disguise under the slice of pride").

True love is its only passage back to life, Karel Marquez shows off her Avril Lavigne pipes in "Ripples," and the versatile Pinky Amador guides effortlessly from spoken words to warbling.

Some curious tracks. Aimee Marcos discusses a destructive relationship in "Dreams", Margarita Holmes recites "Hands 1" while a sampling of Michael Franks' "Lady Wants to Know" is played in the background, and Loren Legarda awkwardly narrates the stilted "Forces," about the uphill struggles of the modern woman.

Best cuts

The best cuts belong to Beng Calma's "Bride" ("Do not save me from this plunging flight carried by your foresight").

Cynthia Culig-Guico's "Deep Sleep," which combines ruminative poetry and classical singing ("Your whispered lullaby echoed beneath the formless shape of my being"), and "Song of Songs 3:1-4," by Juddha Pnola, ironically the only guy in an exhilarating boy of wonderful women, who contemplates about the female gender's thoughts and dreams that are found—and realized—in "Romancing Venus." Visit www.venusinorbit.com.

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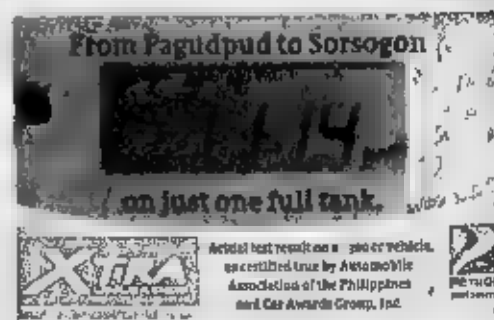
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Gov't paid more dues, borrowed less in May

Tight spending makes up for shortfall in tax collection

By Michelle Y. Ramo

THE GOVERNMENT'S NET FINANCING STOOD at negative P24.968 billion in May, showing that it paid more obligations than it borrowed during the period.

The national government's financing position last month was a complete reversal of the P51.96-billion net borrowings during the same period last year.

The negative borrowings in May was attributed to the government's underspending dur-

ing the month, coupled with the move of the Bureau of the Treasury to cancel several auctions for Treasury bills and bonds because of rising interest rates.

The underspending was meant to compensate for the shortfall in tax collection. In

May, the Bureau of Internal Revenue only collected P61.7 billion in taxes. The bureau was supposed to collect P62.23 billion.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the government paid and redeemed P76.845 billion worth of Treasury bills and bonds during the month, while domestic issuance of government securities only reached P52.533 billion.

On the external side, the government only borrowed P4.989 billion, while it paid off P5.663 billion, while it paid off P5.663 billion, while it paid off P5.663 billion.

WHAT'S INSIDE

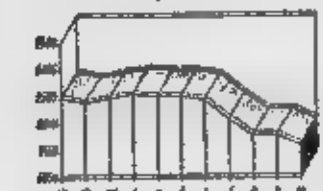
RP posts \$36-M BOP shortfall /B2

ADB to lend \$1.5B to RP for power sector dev't /B4

INDICATORS



P 53.115 = \$
As of 5 p.m., June 16, 2006

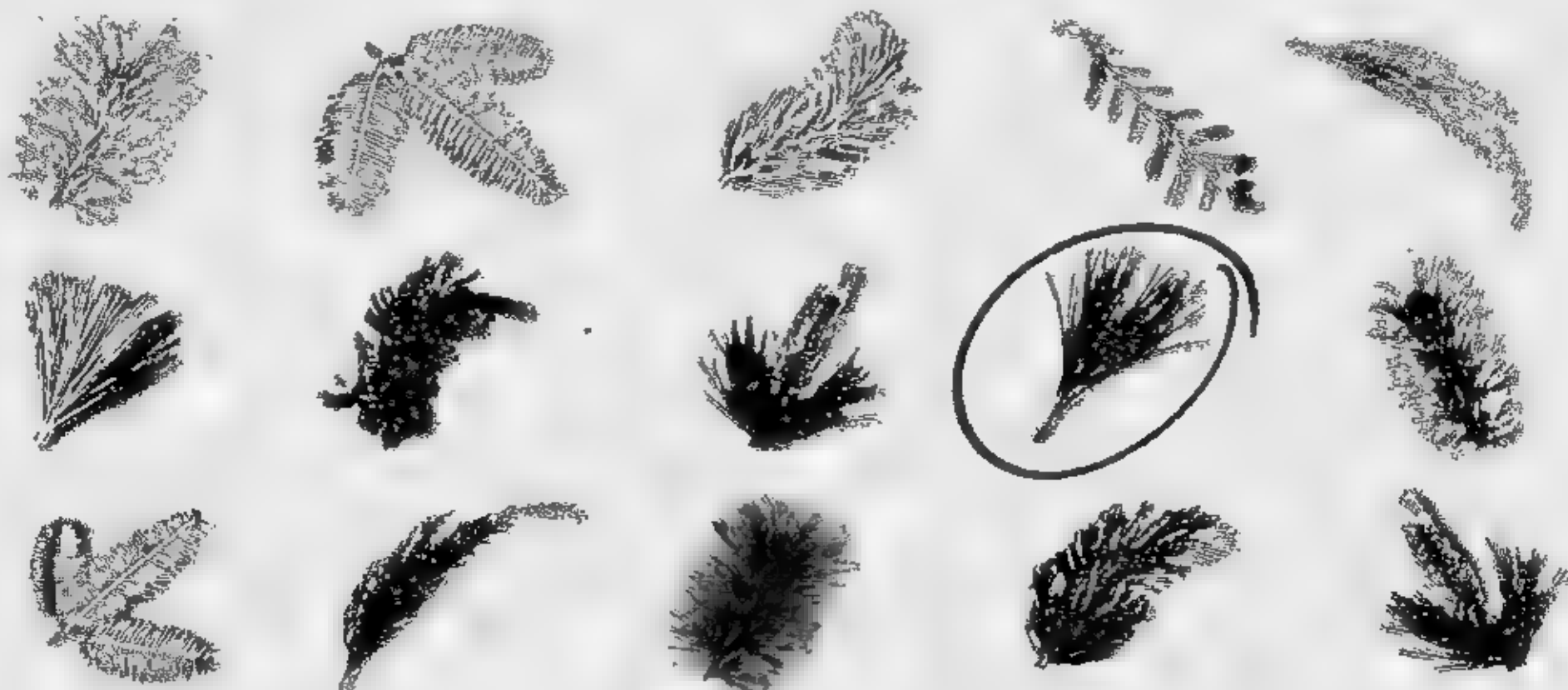


Y 114.74 = \$
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GOLD: \$574.30-\$574.80
per ounce Hong Kong, June 15, 2006

(See stock market report on Page B5)

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RP posts \$36-M BOP shortfall

By Doris C. Dumiao

FOR THE SECOND MONTH IN A row, the country incurred a balance of payments shortfall of \$36 million in May due to huge debt repayment outflow, particularly for the government's Brady bond buyback, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The BOP deficit in May—which coincided with the regional sell-down on emerging markets' assets that month—marked a turnaround from the \$751 million surplus posted in the same period last year. But last month's shortfall was lower than the April deficit of \$277 million.

"The May BOP (deficit) was mainly due to debt payments, particularly the redemption of Brady bonds," BSP Governor

January-May surplus of \$1.81B still higher than \$1.64B in 2005

Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

With large surpluses built up in earlier months, however, Tetangco said the January to May cumulative surplus was still significant at \$1.81 billion, higher than \$1.64 billion in the same period last year.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

Any transaction that gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP while any transaction that results in receipt of

foreign exchange such as borrowing, exporting or inward remittance is a surplus item.

Taking advantage of the sharp peso appreciation in earlier months, the Philippine government replicated the debt management tactic pursued by Latin American countries that had bounced back from fiscal woes, such as Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, by retiring \$411 million or 53 percent of its remaining Brady bonds last month.

The Brady bonds were named after Nicholas Brady, the Treasury chief of the United States during the term of President Ronald Reagan who proposed the issuance of

these bonds to help heavily indebted countries like the Philippines restructure their commercial bank debts.

The government decided to refinance the Brady bonds with proceeds from domestic borrowings.

Despite outflows from the Brady bond buyback, however, the country's gross international reserves surged to a record-high of \$20.94 billion as of end-May from \$20.85 billion at end-April.

Since the start of the year, the country's BOP has been supported by the national government's increased foreign exchange deposits with BSP from its bond sales and project loans, the BSP's own foreign exchange operations, inflows from foreign private investments and overseas Filipino workers remittances.

Banks' exposure to bad consumer loans down

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE RATIO OF SOURCED CREDIT card and auto loans to the total exposure of banks in these sectors went down in the first quarter of the year from year-ago level, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The banking system's past due credit card receivables eased to 19.98 percent as a ratio of total plastic receivables in the first quarter from 21.67 percent a year ago, as growth in lending outpaced the rise in the past due portion.

The ratio of past due auto loans improved to 4.7 percent from 5.9 percent in the same period, as new vehicle lending sharply increased while bad auto loans dropped.

The BSP reported that credit card receivables expanded by 13.77 percent to P78.8 billion versus the first quarter of 2005, dwarfing the 4.91 percent increase in past due receivables to P15.75 billion.

The BSP's first quarter report covered the credit card and auto loan exposure of universal, commercial and thrift banks in the country.

The P15.7 billion past due credit card receivables represented 8.2 percent of the total non-performing loans of universal, commercial and thrift banks during the quarter, which was better than the 8.4 percent in the previous quarter. This was at 6.2 percent a year ago.

The proportion of credit card receivables to the combined total loan portfolio was pared down to 4.5 percent from 4.7 percent last quarter but was higher than 4 percent a year ago.

The banks' auto loan exposure amounted to P62.3 billion in the first quarter, 12.6 percent higher than a year ago and also 1.8 percent more than a quarter ago.

In the meantime, past due auto loans fell to P2.92 billion during the period from P3.2 billion a year ago.

The quarter's past due auto loans represented 1.5 percent of the banking system's reported non-performing loans, better than the previous quarter's 1.6 percent but higher than a year ago's 1.3 percent.

Rules on securities borrowing, lending OKd

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission has approved the rules proposed by the Philippine Stock Exchange on securities borrowing and lending (SBL).

The SBL rules allow the lender of securities from an investor's portfolio to support trading strategies.

PSE president Francis Lim earlier said SBL transactions allowed a lender to earn extra incomes from his or her stocks outside of their dividend yield.

"Lending out the shares provides the lender an extra income and, at the same time, the borrowed stock creates a cover or hedge for the borrower against a failed trade," Lim had said.

The SBL rules require the registration of the contract—called the master securities lending agreement or MSLA—with the Bureau

of Internal Revenue for tax-exemption. To be signed by the securities borrower and lender, the MSLA sets the terms, conditions and rights of each party, as well as the mechanics for the recall or return of the borrowed stock.

The rules also compel the borrower to put up a collateral in the form of cash, stocks and government securities, whose value must correspond to at least 105 percent of the market value of the borrowed stock.

The PSE rules allow the transfer of the borrowed securities title to the borrower.

Lim said this was crucial because the borrower must be able to have an exercisable and unconditional right to vest the securities to the buyer. The lender, however, should have the contractual right to receive all benefits that would accrue to the securities even while they are on loan.

Gov't paid more . . . From page B1

billion in matured liabilities.

Domestic borrowings are underwritten through the issuance of T-bills and bonds, while foreign borrowings are usually sourced through official development assistance (ODA) extended by multilateral and bilateral agencies, and floating of sovereign bonds in the international market.

For the first five months of the year, the government's net borrowings stood at P94.011 billion. This accounted for about 63 percent of the P150-billion ceiling set under the government's fiscal program for the entire year.

Treasury officials earlier decided to cancel one T-bill and three bond auctions, giving up P13.5 billion worth of potential borrowings.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said it was prudent to stay out of the market for a while and

wait until it settled down before borrowing again to get reasonable interest rates.

The Treasury resumed auctions early this week.

The rise of domestic interest rates was influenced by the volatile international capital market, which expects the US Federal Reserve to raise its key rates anew. An increase in US Fed rates will make US bonds more attractive, resulting in higher risk premiums for bonds issued by emerging economies like that of the Philippines.

Because of underspending, the government was still able to post a budget surplus of P5.8 billion in May, despite the shortfall in tax collection.

Under the 2006 fiscal program, the government was supposed to spend P89 billion in May, but it only spent P83.9 billion.

Shares closed . . . From page B1

prospects of higher US interest rates and lower growth.

The composite index rose 39.67 points to 2,121.47, after trading between 2,081.80 and 2,153.11. Volume was 1.35 bil-

lion shares worth P1.32 billion (\$24.90 million).

The broader all-shares index rose 18 points to 1,343.26. Gainers led losers 72 to 22, with 35 stocks unchanged. AFP

STOCKS					
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev Bank Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	18,000
Barito de Oro Jtly Bank	33	33	32	32.5	112,000
Bank of the Phil Islands	48	48.5	46.5	47	3,535,300
China Banking Corp.	870	870	870	870	100
Cyristate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	1,800
Equibank and Bk of A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,316,000
Equibank PCL Bank Inc.	72.5	73.5	72	73.5	330,800
International Exch Bank	41	41	41	41	14,000
Mt. Cebu Bank & Trust	31.5	33	31.5	32.5	1,492,200
Philippine National Bank	31	32	31	32	22,500
Phil Savings Bank	38.5	39.5	38	39	5,000
Rural Commercial Bank	18	18	17.75	18	48,000
Security Bank Corp.	46.5	46.5	45	45.5	444,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	23,700
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
ATN Kinseng Fin. Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.78	199,000
First Met. Invest. Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	10,900
Manila Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1700	1700	160
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	200,000
San 1st Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	230
Seahorse Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	3,350,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	43	42.5	42.5	124,500
First Gen Hdqs Corp.	43.5	44	42.5	43	1,316,900
Manila Elec. Co A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	700
Manila Electric Co B	21	21	20.5	21	111,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7.1	1,535,000
Perpetua Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.55	3.6	6,345,000
TransAsia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	250,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Barito a San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	30,000
Barito a San Miguel Inc.	32.5	33	31.5	31.5	989,500
Pancake House Inc.	3.5	4.5	3.5	4.1	223,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	57,000
San Miguel Corp A	84	84.5	83.5	84.5	120,900
San Miguel Corp B	71	71	70	71	131,800
Unimark Robins Corp.	19	19.25	18.75	19	3,333,000
Unimark Corp.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	250,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	850,000
Engineering Equip Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,940,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	2,956,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	10,000
CHEMICALS					
Manila Vinyl Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.07	0.0725	3,800,000
Phil Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	100,000
Sanitex Manufacturing	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.25	180,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Alabaca Con Res & Hldg A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	72,000,000
Ayala Corp.	380	380	380	380	289,140
Alabaca Con. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.45	0.48	1,250,000
Adco Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	287
Alc Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	10,800
A. Solano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2	2	1
APC Group Inc.	0.95	0.92	0.95	0.95	1,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.91	0.91	620
Baquioldan Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.48	1.4	1.44	125,000
Bactonair Holdings Inc.	9.6	9.9	9.7	9.8	71,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1	4,180,000
DMC Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.85	3.75	3.75	152,000
Fluorocarbide Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	5,000
J S Schmitt Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	50,000
Prime Ocean Phils. Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	131,000
Phil Glass Hldg. Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	440,000
Investments Corp.	0.213	0.213	0.213	0.213	25,000
Investment Resources Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	50,000
PROPERTY					
Land Inc.	12	12	11.25	11.25	11,755
Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	7,348
Land Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	130
Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	130
Land Inc.	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.15	250
Land Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	6,210
Land Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.8	0.8	150,000
Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.3	1.3	15,000
Land Inc.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Land Inc.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,000,000
Land Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	160,000
Land Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	25,000,000
Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	600
Land Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	600
Land Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	65
Land Inc.	10	10	10	10	3,400
Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	3,400
Land Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	7,750,000
Land Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7,750,000
Land Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	80,000
Land Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	4,900,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	52,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	7,400,000
Telecom Phils. Inc.	900	900	900	900	51,770
Telecom Phils. Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	7,400,000
Phil Long Dis Tel Co.	1890	1890	1890	1890	58,940
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	1,210,000
Logic Inc.	2.1	2.24	2.1	2.24	1,343,000
Transpacific Broadcast	0	0	0	0	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0	0	0.029	0.031	213,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Int'l Container Term 1 Sv	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.75	3,963,500
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	50,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acelesta Phils. Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	510,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	57,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	8,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.57	0.57	1,000,000
PEOPLES INC.					
Peoples Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	309,000
MACROSTRAS CORP.					
Macrostras Corp.	1.90	2.02	1.9	2	370,000
Macrostras Corp.	10	10	9.7	9.8	299,000
MINING					
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	56,000,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	99,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	24,330,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	8,030,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.021	11,400,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	39,000,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	327,000,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	3.1	3.35	3.1	3.35	19,279,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	3.2	3.35	3.15	3.35	20,398,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	27	27.5	27	27.5	2,000,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	440,000
Alabaca Mining & Industrial	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	250,000
PEOPLES INC.					
Peoples Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	520,000
Peoples Inc.	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.009	269,000,000
Peoples Inc.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	11,000,000
Peoples Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,627,000
Peoples Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.14	169,000
Peoples Inc.	16.25	17	16.25	16.75	1,120,100
PEOPLES INC.					
Peoples Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
Peoples Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTY PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ALR-CLM Phils. Corp. (PCL)	14.5	14.75	14.25	14.75	135,250

Richer countries should buy more from poor neighbors, says Finance exec

But economic officials said the question remained of "until when will the US government allow its

Tan said the Philippines has urged its fellow Asian countries to strengthen its ties in formulating ways to counter the adverse effects of interest rate movements on their economies.

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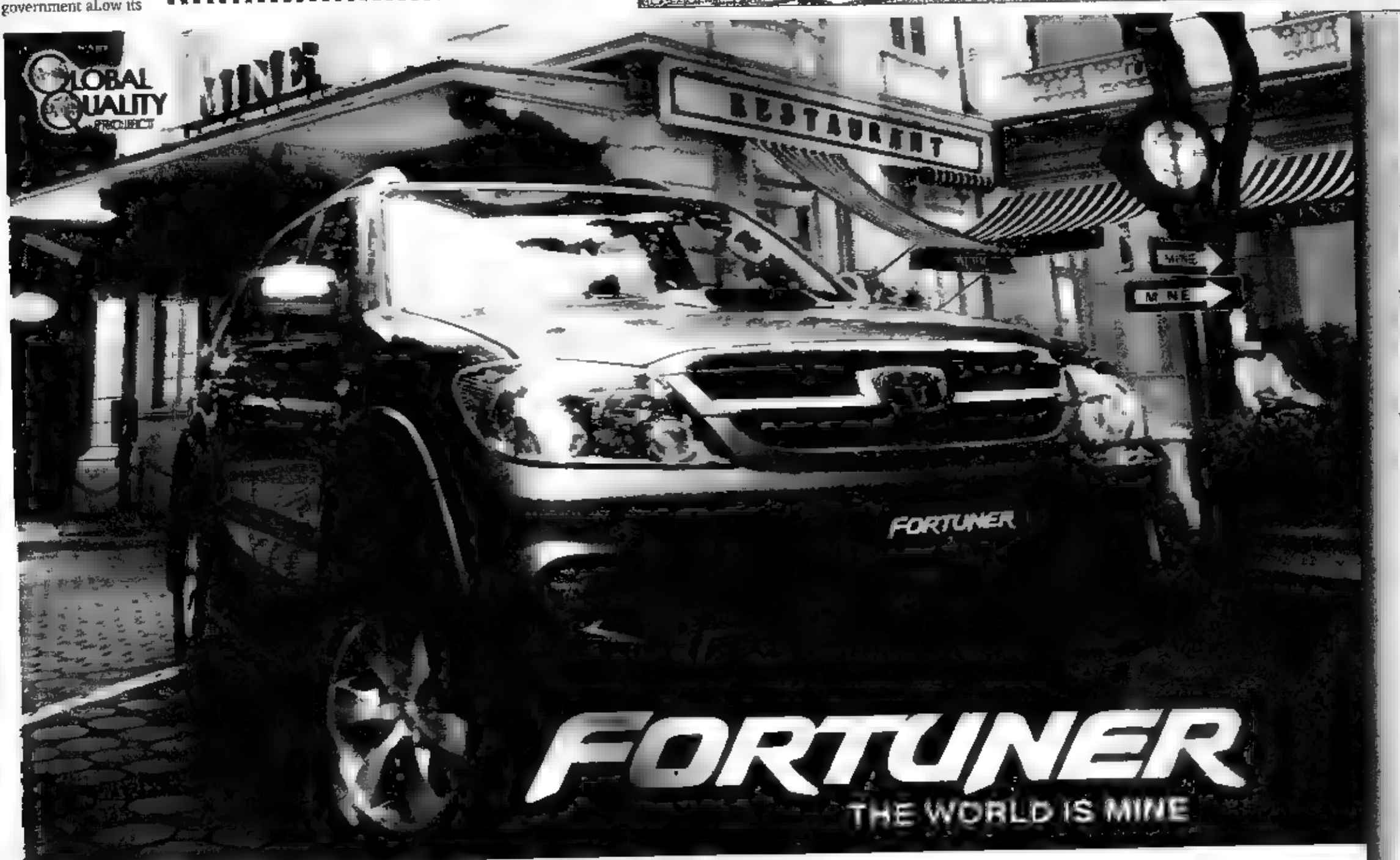
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ADB to lend \$1.5B to RP for power sector dev't

Lender cites need to develop new sources to prevent crisis

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank plans to lend as much as \$1.5 billion to the Philippines until 2007 to fund several developmental programs, particularly in the power sector.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said that if finalized, the amount would form part of ADB's official development assistance until 2007.

The focus on the energy sector came amid the pressing need to develop power sources and boost the trade of electricity to avert a possible power crisis.

Tan said the government proposed that \$300 million to \$400 million of the \$1.5 billion be in the form of direct lending to the national government for various energy-related programs.

These may include strengthening of the capacity of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), he said.

The ADB also looks at allocating a portion of the \$1.5 billion for a technical assistance program that will guide authorities on the efficient operations of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

WESM is scheduled to start operations on June 23.

WESM will provide a common platform for the buying and selling of electricity by customers and power generators.

The Department of Energy said WESM would help create transparency and boost competition in the electricity sector.

But Tan said there was a need to provide security to power generators, as a spot market opens the risk of not being paid.

In this view, he said, the ADB was willing to provide a technical assistance on how to establish a risk-mitigating mechanism for the WESM.

"There must be some kind of

insurance system to help ensure that the WESM operation is efficient. This is critical in helping make the power generation sector robust," Tan said.

The scheduled operationalization of WESM on June 23 followed the recent approval by the ERC of its regulatory guidelines, such as methodology for determination of price and market fees.

Aside from technical assistance on the WESM and a direct lending for the government, providing a credit guarantee for future borrowings to be undertaken by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) is also one of the suggested components of the \$1.5-billion assistance program of the ADB for the Philippines.

PSALM, tasked with selling the country's power assets to the investors from the private sector, intends to raise capital through a bond float.

Tan said government authorities have sought the assistance from the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the country's biggest ODA providers, to pursue other programs to develop the power sector.

The finance official said the World Bank, which was also finalizing its assistance program for the Philippines, had already expressed willingness to provide complementary financial support for the country's power sector.

The World Bank earlier said that it could provide a maximum ODA of \$2.2 billion for the Philippines for the next three years if it improves its fiscal position and shows its capacity to absorb debts.

JBIC has yet to give a response to the proposal to support the Philippines' power sector through loans.

Unit of UK company eyes jatropha refinery

By Aquiles Z. Zonia
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE local unit of UK-based D1 Oils Plc has expressed plans to put up a refinery in the country that will process jatropha into biodiesel, which will then be sold here and abroad.

Richard Torres, D1 Oils Philippines operations manager, said in a recent interview that the company wanted to first plant 5,000 hectares of land to jatropha before putting up the refinery.

The refinery will extract the oil in jatropha seeds and then process it to produce high quality bio-diesel.

Torres was here recently with Ab Van Peer, D1 Oils Southeast Asia chief agronomist and Laidette Rosales, the company's corporate business development in-charge.

During the visit, Torres also handed a P150,000 check to a local cooperative propagating jatropha, locally known as tuba-tuba.

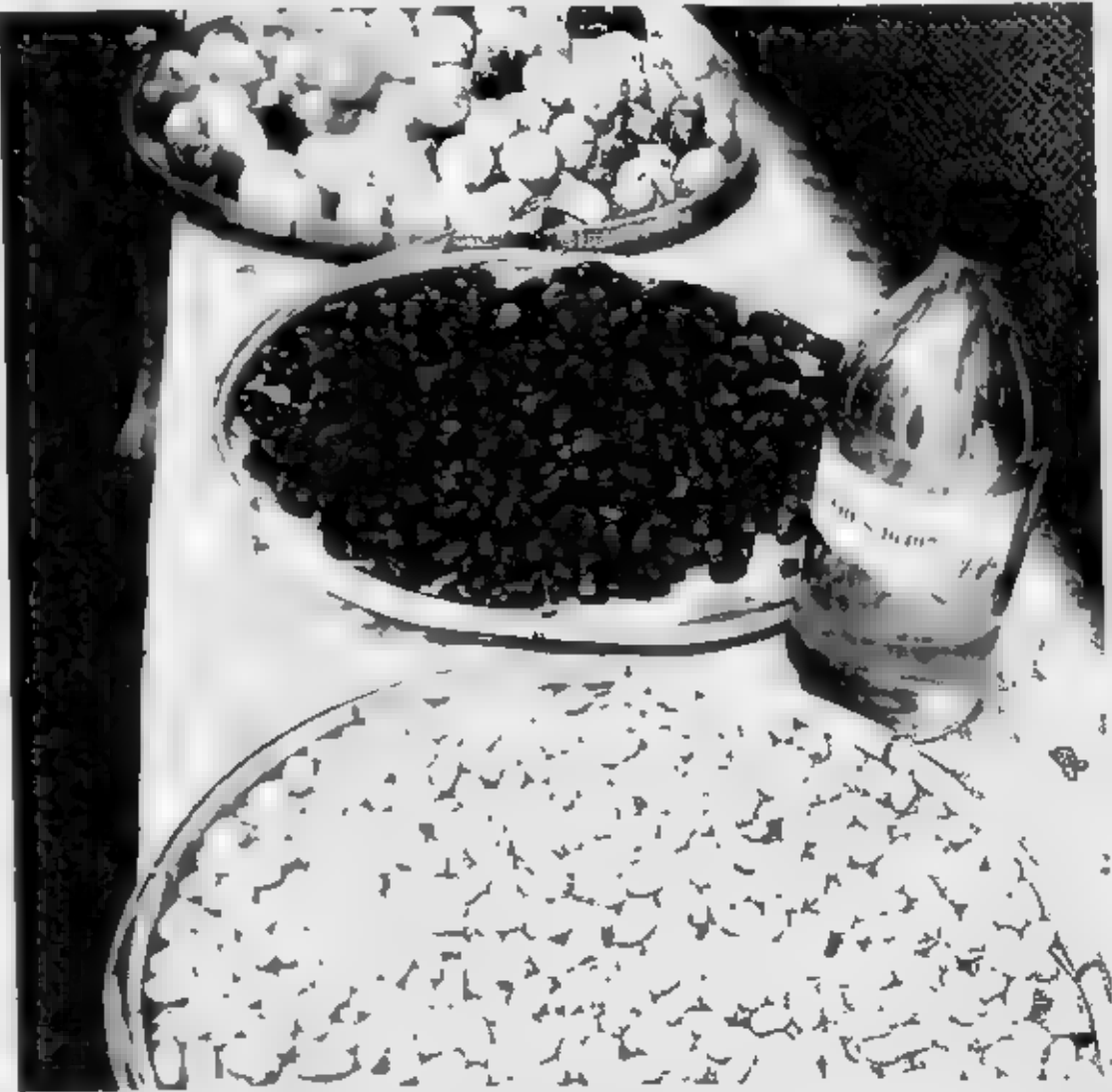
Torres said General Santos has the largest tuba-tuba plantation in the country spanning 200 hectares.

Aside from having the biggest area planted to tuba-tuba, the city has also become the leading source of tuba-tuba seedlings for farmers in other parts of the country.

D1 Oils became interested in supporting tuba-tuba propagation here after a recent visit by a D1 Oils specialist from Kenya to a jatropha nursery owned by Jojo Tubao, who also manages the Socskargen Unified Workers Multipurpose Cooperative (SUW-MPC) here, a cooperative which has ventured in jatropha growing.

Shortly after the visit, SUW-MPC and D1 Oils signed a seed supply agreement.

Tubao said propagating tuba-tuba presented a good income



JATROPHA or tuba tuba seeds ready for processing into oil, which is used in the manufacturing of bio-diesel.

opportunity to marginalized farmers.

Aside from being easy to propagate, he claimed that the plant grows almost everywhere—in sandy and saline soils and even in crevices.

Aside from being a renewable source of bio-diesel, tuba-tuba oil is also used in soap making, lubricants and candle.

Its protein content may be used as raw material for plastic and synthetic fiber.

It also has high medicinal value. Its latex contains jatrophone, an alkaloid used in the manufacture of certain medicines.

Tuba-tuba oil cake is also rich in nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium and can be used as an organic fertilizer.

Tubao said that many people have become interested in growing tuba-tuba since it does not require large capital and grows fast.

"Officials of D1 Oils are very

serious in making this project successful. They want the project to gain nationwide support to improve the lives of marginalized farmers and to make lands productive," Tubao said.

Mayor Labualas Mamansual of Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat said at least 8,000 hectares of land could be planted to jatropha in his town.

"This would attract rebels to give up their armed struggle," he said.

Gov't expects growth in trade with China

By Ronnel W. Domingo

Cojuangco gives cash to farmers

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—BUSINESS TYcoon Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. distributed P10 million in dividends to about 1,700 land reform beneficiaries of his landholdings during his 71st birthday last week in Pontevedra town, Negros Occidental.

Each of the workers received more than P5,000 in cash, which was handed to them during Cojuangco's birthday party inside Galleria de Pontevedra in Hacienda Balbina, Pontevedra, 50 kilometers south of here.

Pedro Bedayo, president of the ECJ Farm Workers Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative, said Cojuangco had been advancing dividends so that the beneficiaries would not have to wait until the corporation starts making money.

Cojuangco, chair of San Miguel Corp., and the land reform beneficiaries have formed a joint venture corporation that now runs the farms.

The Southern Negros Joint Venture Corp., co-owned by the workers and the family of Cojuangco, has taken over the operations of the farms covering 4,654 hectares that had been subjected to land reform.

The farms cover three cities—Hamasaylan, La Carlota and Bago—and five towns—Hinigaran, La Castellana, Pontevedra, San Enrique and Isabela.

In a speech, Cojuangco thanked the beneficiaries for agreeing to co-own his landholdings.

"Some people may not agree with what I am doing. But I truly believe in what we are doing. Otherwise, we will not be doing this," he said.

Cojuangco also pointed out that there were a few things that must be done "if we were to alleviate our fellowmen from poverty."

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS A boost in trade with China as Beijing has adopted new rules on allowing food, drink and cosmetic products into the mainland.

Local garments firms also inked a cooperation pact with partners in Guangdong.

Enrico Mariano, DTI Commercial Attaché in Beijing reported that starting last April 1, China had allowed the label registration of food, drinks and cosmetics to be done by local agencies at the port of entry.

The new rule did away with the old system of having new labels that would be introduced into the Chinese market be required to have the approval of the State Administration on Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine or the Beijing-headquartered national authority on products safety.

Under the old system, exporters faced long periods without their feedback on their applications and a repeat of the process if their applications were rejected.

The decentralization of registra-

tion and approval of product labels is widely seen to hasten the entry of imports and jack up cargo volumes.

"We welcome this (move) because it means lower costs and reduced time to introduce Philippine exporters products in a market as big as China," Trade Secretary Peter B. Pavila said.

Also, an investment mission comprised of trade officials and executives of some 70 textile and garment firms resulted in the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between local firms and their counterparts in Guangdong province.

Emmanuel Ang, DTI Commercial Attaché in Beijing, said the pact would serve as an enabling platform for all future business cooperation between Chinese and Philippine textile firms.

"Investment prospects are high as shown in keen consideration of Chinese textile firms to (put up projects) in the country as well as the high level of support to Philippine textile companies from the Guangdong provincial government," Ang said.

Serafin Juliana, special consultant

on textiles and garments, said there was an "exciting" window of opportunity for investments from China due to the good fit and complementation between the two industries in areas such as labor, capital and technology, resources and raw materials.

Data from the Chinese embassy in Manila showed that the Philippines accounted for \$17.6 billion or about 13.5 percent of the \$130 billion two-way trade between China and Southeast Asia.

Trade between China and the Philippines has been growing steadily in the past 15 years or so from \$350 million in 1992 when the mainland had the upper hand with a surplus of \$30 million.

In 2005, the Philippines exported \$8.1 billion worth of goods—mostly electronics and semiconductors—to China more than what was shipped in from across the South China Sea.

Among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Philippines' trade surplus had been growing the fastest at an average of 30 percent a year in the past 15 years.

Transco to proceed with P8-B line project

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION Corp. can proceed with the P8-billion Mindanao Backbone Transmission Project following the signing of agreements with two indigenous cultural communities.

Transco, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and two indigenous cultural communities signed last week in Cagayan de Oro Multipartite Memoranda of Agreements that formally resolved issues that indigenous groups had raised concerning the project.

The signing of the MOAs paves the way for NCIP's issuance of a Certification Precondition, which will allow the 230-kilovolt (kV) Abaga-Kirahon-Maramag-Bunawan transmission project to traverse around 45 kilometers of ancestral domain areas.

In signing the MOAs, Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz assured the indigenous com-

munities that they would get their rightful share of economic development when the project is completed in December next year.

Under the MOAs, Transco will provide financial assistance to community development projects of affected tribal communities, avail of their services for line clearing works, give them employment priority, and grant compensation for property damages.

The tribal councils, on the other hand, will support Transco in managing, administering, regulating and undertaking the construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line project.

NCIP, for its part, will ensure that all provisions of the MOAs are respected and implemented.

The National Economic and Development Authority Investment Coordination Committee approved the Abaga Kirahon-Maramag-Bunawan project in March.

Cebu Pac goes to Dipolog

By Daxim L. Lucas

BUDGET AIRLINE CEBU PACIFIC Air Inc. started regular commercial flights to Dipolog City this week as the company's newly acquired aircraft allowed it to expand its domestic network.

The commercial service to the capital city of Zamboanga del Norte is the airline's second domestic destination to be inaugurated this year, after its flight to Laoag which started earlier this month.

In a press statement, the airline said it would fly to Dipolog thrice weekly with its new Airbus A319 aircraft at an "introductory fare" of P688 for one-way travel.

Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei said the Manila-Dipolog service "reinforces the airline's commitment to strengthen local tourism in the country."

"Dipolog is known for numerous tourist spots like Dakak Beach and Dapitan Bay as well as its sardine industry," he said. "It also showcases year-round festivities and presents itself as one of the major trade hubs in Mindanao."

This service is part of the airline's

expansion program as it continues to build up its new Airbus fleet.

At present, Cebu Pacific operates eight brand-new Airbus aircraft for its domestic and regional flights.

The Manila-Dipolog service departs Manila every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 11:45 a.m. arriving in Dipolog at 1 p.m. The same plane leaves Dipolog at 1:30 p.m. to return to Manila at 2:45 p.m.

"With the recent success of its 'Buyah Na Zamboanga Peninsula' regional showcase and the 'Hudyaka Festival,' we believe that the 'Orchid City' of the Philippines can become a major gateway for tourism and business in Mindanao," Gokongwei added, explaining his airline's decision to fly to the city.

The airline's introductory fare is 77 percent cheaper than the prevailing airfare of other airlines serving the city.

The sale runs from June 15 to 22 only and is for travel from July 13 to Oct. 19, 2006. After this period, the year-round 'Go' fares to Dipolog will start at P858 for one-way travel, which is approximately 70-percent cheaper than the current airfare.



HOP ON, HOP OFF: Tourism Secretary Joseph M. Durano (foreground) at the wheel of the new city tour bus. The 21-seater air-conditioned customized jeepney will be used for guided tours on three routes around the different attractions in the metropolis. With him are Sen. Richard J. Gordon (left) and Clang Garcia (right) of Hop On, Hop Off Travel.

SE Asian stocks up as US inflation fears ease



PANGILINAN now owns a total of 212,279 shares of PLDT. At yesterday's closing price, his hoard is now worth P384 million. **REM ZAMORA**

MVP buys more 'undervalued' PLDT shares

By Daxim L. Lucas

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan continued to increase his personal stake in the firm, a few days after complaining that the market was undervaluing the country's largest telecommunications group.

Pangilinan added to his personal holdings of PLDT shares last Thursday—the bottom of an eight-day slide which saw the company's stock price drop 12 percent from P2,045 to P1,770 per share.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PLDT said its chair bought an additional 500 shares of the firm last Thursday at P1,770 for a total outlay of P885,000.

This followed a similar purchase he made in early March and in mid-May of this year—both after warning that the company faced a more challenging business environment after years of frenetic growth.

According to the disclosure, Pangilinan now owns a total of 212,279 shares of the company. At yesterday's closing price, his hoard is now worth P384 million.

His purchases are widely interpreted by stock market watchers as a signal to investors that he was confident about the company's prospects, despite the sober scenario being painted by the PLDT management.

During its stockholders' meeting last Tuesday, Pangilinan expressed dismay at the performance of his company's share price which had hit three-month lows, leading a broader decline in the PSE index.

"[Our share price] doesn't reflect the fundamentals of PLDT, but more that global prices are retreating on inflation fears," he said.

He also warned that rising interest rates around the world will adversely affect revenues of the country's largest telecommunications firm as people adjust their spending patterns.

The resistance of local policymakers to following this trend has led to some degree of capital flight, pushing the peso lower against the US dollar, he said.

Pangilinan explained that a weak peso against the dollar fed inflation which, in turn, eroded the purchasing power of the Filipino consumer. Inevitably, PLDT's revenues will also suffer, he warned.

To mitigate this, he unveiled an aggressive plan to find new sources of revenues for the firm, and announced an increase in PLDT's dividend payout rate from 50 percent of net income to 60 percent, due mainly to its "healthy cash flows."

PLDT's share price rebounded yesterday, rising by P60 to end the trading session at P1,830 apiece. A total of P106.7 million worth of the company's shares changed hands.

Cement firm denies getting tax incentives

JAPANESE-OWNED TAIHEIYO CEMENT Philippines Inc. (TCPI) has clarified that it had never availed itself of tax incentives from the government as it had voluntarily sought the cancellation of its registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) following its purchase of Grand Cement Manufacturing Corp.

TCPI clarified that it had never availed itself of tax incentives through the cement firm it bought. Under the present system, incentives are given only to cement firms that are owned by Filipinos.

TCPI also refuted reports that it was fined by the BOI for its late disclosure in the change of ownership.

It explained that it was Grand Cement that was penalized P1.1 million by the BOI for filing its income tax holiday application two days late in May 1999. The BOI made the payment as a condition for the approval of the cancellation of its BOI registration.

"TCPI has always practiced diligence in complying with government requirements and has been very supportive of the goals set by the government agencies," TCPI said in a statement.

The Japanese cement company was even awarded by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) last year for its contribution to the tax agency's tax compliance drive and revenue collection efforts.

"As a player in the Philippine cement industry, TCPI is committed to maintain its policy on doing fair and proper business in order to contribute to growth," the company added.

SINGAPORE—ASIAN STOCKS leapt yesterday, extending a recovery for a third straight day after a month of heavy losses, while gold, metals and oil gained on optimism that the US economy can withstand rising interest rates and commodity prices.

"Concerns about a slow-down in the US economy and inflation there are fading," said Susumu Abe, manager at Mito Securities' information and investment department.

But the dollar fell back against the yen and euro retreating from Tuesday's highest level in more than a month, amid worries that first-quarter US current account deficit data, due later, could again show a yawning gap.

New York crude oil held above \$70 a barrel, rising for a

Fed chief says expectations of price hikes have 'fallen back somewhat'

third day. Spot gold topped \$581 an ounce, surging almost 5 percent from the previous day's lows, and copper rose above \$7,100 a ton after a 5.4-percent jump on Thursday.

The gains in stocks and metals, and expectations that the Bank of Japan could raise rates as early as next month, dragged Japanese government bonds lower, helping push up the yield on the key 10-year JGB by 4 basis points to 1.810 percent.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei stock average climbed 2.9 percent to 14,883.48 by midday,

recovering some of its almost 20 percent slump since early April.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 2.2 percent, South Korea's Kospi jumped more than 3.5 percent and Australia's resource-heavy S&P/ASX 200 rose 2 percent.

The gains followed advances on Wall Street where the Nasdaq Composite Index jumped 2.8 percent and the Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.8 percent higher after Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke comments on the economy.

Bernanke toned down his

warnings against US inflation, saying expectations of price increases had "fallen back somewhat" and that the impact of high energy prices on the economy has been limited.

Bernanke and other Fed officials had spooked stocks, metals and emerging market investors over the past month, leading to a rapid sell-off in risky assets, by repeatedly warning against the risks of rising inflation amid slowing US economic growth.

"Bernanke stopped his hawkish comments on US inflation and that's positive,"

said Choo Hee-yeop, deputy general manager of asset management strategy at Korea Investment and Securities.

"Now it looks like he's trying to put out the fire. His speech yesterday is not going to eliminate worries about inflation or interest rates, but at least in the short-term, it will be positive."

Talk of rising US rates was the biggest factor pushing the dollar to a five-week high against the yen and six-week high against the euro earlier this month.

But the capital inflows data on Thursday reignited talk that the dollar was set to falter. The US attracted just \$46.7 billion in foreign capital in April, far short of that needed to cover the \$63.4 billion trade deficit that month. **Reuters**

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Targeting a new key in war vs obesity

By Charles E. Duban

PARIS—A SYSTEM IN our body that plays a role in the control of food intake and metabolic functions may be the latest battleground in the war on obesity.

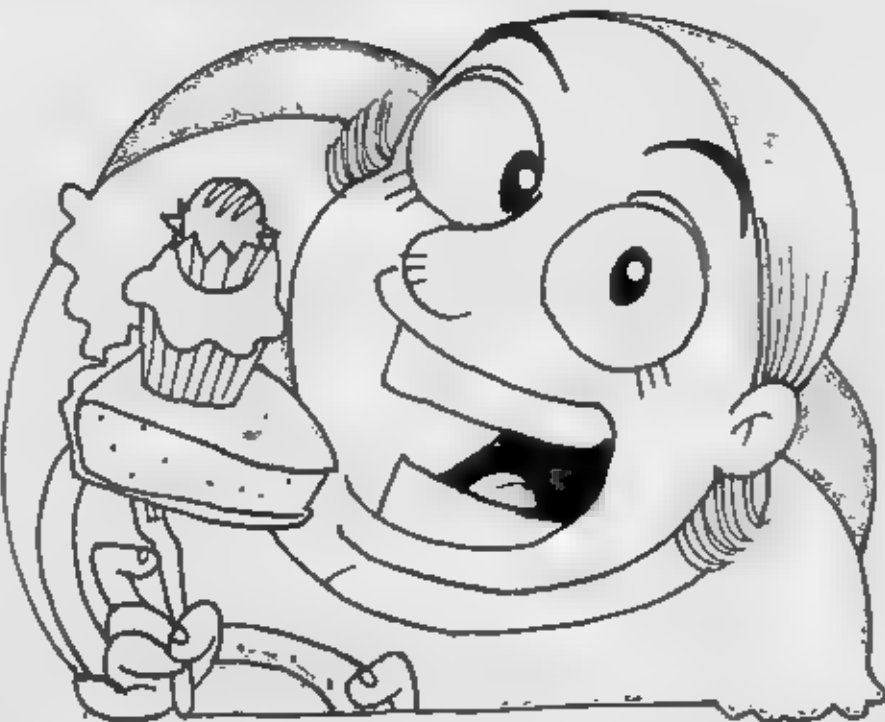
"Studies have shown that when the endocannabinoid system is overactive, people eat more, leading to weight gain, increase in body fat and slowing down of the action of insulin. This sets the stage for diabetes and cardiovascular diseases," said Dr. Vincenzo Di Marzo, coordinator of the Endocannabinoid Research Group at the Institute of Biomolecular Chemistry of the National Research Council in Italy.

Di Marzo, who spoke here during a forum on cardiometabolic risk, said an overactive endocannabinoid system affects the brain in such a way that hunger increases and one is driven to desire for food. In the gastrointestinal tract, it interacts with other hormones causing one to also crave for more food.

All over the body

The endocannabinoid system was discovered in 1994. Researchers found that it is comprised of cannabinoid receptors located all over the body: in the abdominal fat, muscles, liver and brain as well as in the gastrointestinal tract and pancreas.

Researchers also found that it is a sort of stress-recovery system that lies mostly dormant for long stretches of time and is only activated when the body encounters stress. The system helps the body recover from a transient unbalanced situation



such as if one experienced acute starvation.

Di Marzo said that when the receptors of the system are blocked, researchers believe this would help control an overactive endocannabinoid system, resulting in reduced weight as well as improving other related risk factors.

New drug

Several drugs are now being developed to block the endocannabinoid system, including rimonabant (developed by French pharmaceutical firm Sanofi-Aventis), that curbs appetite.

A recent study published in The Journal of the American Medical Association showed that people who took the drug

were able to lose weight, maintain their weight loss, reduce the level of fats in the blood and fat deposits, and improve insulin action. This, in turn, reduced their risk factors for heart disease and diabetes.

The drug is awaiting approval in the European and American markets.

"This drug may provide a potent weapon in fighting obesity. But as studies about the endocannabinoid system and development of new drugs continue, lifestyle changes such as diet and exercise, are still highly recommended for people with weight problem since losing just 10 percent of body weight can be very effective in preventing risks," Di Marzo said.

Solving a math problem

OMAR TAPANG [OTAPANG@BEARINGPOINT.NET] writes: "I am a fan, and I am sending you an article in April 2004 on using computers for math proofs. I came from Ateneo, and I even sat in your lecture when you substituted for Dr. Marasigan's calculus class. This was a long time ago, but I still remember how you lectured while Dr. Francisco drew on the board."

Yes, my drawing skills are not exactly topnotch, and several years ago, I would ask Dr. Flor Francisco to graph polar coordinates on the board while I explained how they were done. It seems students remember our tandem.

What math news was astonishing enough to make it to the New York Times? A centuries-old problem, the Kepler Conjecture, was finally proved, but by a computer. In the 1590s, the adventurer Sir Walter Raleigh, while preparing his ship for an expedition, wondered which method of stacking cannonballs would be most efficient. His assistant, Thomas Harriot, came up with a solution (the pyramid), which he mentioned years later to the astronomer Johannes Kepler. Kepler agreed with this, but never proved it.

No error?

Many mathematicians tried proving Kepler's Conjecture, but no one succeeded until 2004, when Dr. Thomas Hales of the University of Pittsburgh harnessed computers to do various computations too tedious to be done by hand. Of course this assumes the computer did not commit any error in the first place.

Since the time of Euclid, proving has been supposed to be unambiguous and logical, a brilliant exercise of the human mind (remember geometry proofs in high school?). No wonder Hales' proof is controversial, and several mathematicians are not too happy about the situation.

Dr. Larry Wos of the Argonne Computer Laboratory strikes a compromise. He uses automated reasoning programs, where the computer sifts through many, many possibilities, but the human still needs to guide it. Wos says a human mind can never be replaced, but the advantage of computers is that they do not

EUREKA!

Queenie N. Lee-Chua



have preconceptions. Personally, I believe that if a computer can beat human chess grandmasters, then there is no reason it cannot solve problems which have eluded us for centuries.

Lack of sleep

Dr. Michael Muin of Pinoy MD [http://pinoymd.com; mikenmuin@gmail.com] writes, "Regarding your article on April 8, I read about sleep deprivation of doctors. There are a lot of articles on the web about the effects of sleep deprivation on doctors and medical errors. Most of them refer to these two articles, available online from the New England Journal of Medicine."

Effect of reducing interns' weekly work hours on sleep and attentional failures: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15509816

Conclusion: Eliminating interns' extended work shifts in an intensive care unit significantly increased sleep and decreased attentional failures during night work hours.

Effect of reducing interns' work hours on serious medical errors in intensive care units: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15509817

Conclusion: Interns made substantially more serious medical errors when they worked frequent shifts of 24 hours or more than when they worked shorter shifts. Eliminating extended work shifts and reducing the number of hours interns work per week can reduce serious medical errors in the intensive care unit.

Some doctors, especially residents, go on 72-hour dunes with less than eight hours taken in chunks of 45 minutes to two hours. Oh well, such is the life of a doctor.

How the brain handles bilingualism

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW with the San Francisco Chronicle to discuss their low-budget movie "Cavite," currently making the rounds of several film festivals in the United States, film maker Neil Dela Llana said that at one point in the movie, the kidnapper speaks to the hero in Tagalog, but the latter responds in English. He said this was not unusual, after all this is how he and his parents communicate.

Dela Llana's acknowledgment of his bilingualism highlights the fact that this ease of switching between languages is common to many Filipinos. In fact, it happens with such regularity, you're probably not even aware of it.

Studies have even suggested that being fluent in more than one language positively benefits your brain.

But have you ever wondered how your brain absorbs the different sounds, separates them into different languages, and then puts the response into the desired language?

35 bilingual subjects

It now appears that an answer may be found in the June 9 issue of the Journal Science. Researchers from the University College London and Tokyo University led by neuroscientist Cathy Price collaborated to find out which portions of the brain are activated by bilingual activity.

They looked at data collected from 35 right-handed bilingual people, approximately two-thirds of whom were fluent German-English speakers based in London while the rest were fluent Japanese-English speakers based in Japan.

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and positron emission tomography (PET), the researchers were able to see which portions of the volunteers' brains were activated as they completed the tests.

Each volunteer was presented with several pairs of words that fell under a variety of categories. (Note: the following examples are representative and are not taken from the study itself.)

DISCOVER



Massie Santos Ballon

1) The words were in the same language and were related, for example: "soap" and "water."

2) The words were in the same language but unrelated, e.g., "soap" and "camel."

3) The words were in two different languages but unrelated, e.g., "sabon" (soap) and "shampoo."

4) The words were in two different languages but related, e.g., "soap" and "kabayo (horse)".

Each participant read the word pairs as they were flashed onto a screen and noted if the words were related or unrelated. In deference to cultural differences among the German, English and Japanese, researchers modified certain word pairs for increased comprehension. For example, where the German-English speakers saw a card labeled "stag-REIN-DEER," the Japanese-English speakers saw "terrier-HUSKY."

Fast recognition

The researchers found that despite language differences, pairs of related words were recognized faster than pairs of unrelated words. Additionally, the fMRI and PET scans suggest that the left caudate, a small portion of the brain's left hemisphere, is activated when processing multiple languages and had a weaker response when word pairs were in the same language.

Previous studies have noted that the left caudate is involved in speech processing. Researchers on snoring have found that high levels of dopamine in the left caudate block the neural pathways, impairing mind and mouth coordination.

Price et al.'s research suggests that the left caudate deserves further attention. It would also be interesting to see how language-processing portions of the brain behave during the kind of conversation Dela Llana described earlier: Would the left caudate be activated when the brain hears Tagalog and formulates a response in English, or would it remain dormant because only one language is used at a time? Hopefully that question will be answered by a future study.

Some stress during pregnancy may have benefits

PREGNANT WOMEN CAN stop worrying that the stressors and anxieties present in their hectic lives today may hurt their babies. A study by researchers from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore suggests that a bit of stress and anxiety during pregnancy may actually be beneficial.

In a study of 137 healthy pregnant women with low-risk, normal pregnancies, researchers found that those who reported moderate levels of anxiety and stress between weeks 24 and 32 of pregnancy had children who were somewhat more advanced

in their mental and motor development at age 2.

Overall, Dr. Janet DiPietro and her colleagues failed to see any ill effects of prenatal stress and anxiety on the children's emotional development and behavior.

The few existing studies that have examined the impact of stress during pregnancy on child health and development have "many flaws," DiPietro said, "including simply relying on asking mothers how their children behave. Maternal anxiety colors women's perceptions of their children such that stressed women more often report chil-

dren to be more difficult."

The study found that children of women who reported more negative feelings about being pregnant had somewhat lower behavior and emotional scores.

But, overall, this study should put pregnant women's minds at ease and help them stop "worrying about worrying," DiPietro said.

There is a biological basis that explains the finding that moderate stress is not harmful and may be beneficial for the baby. Chemicals produced by stress have a well-known influence on organ growth and development,

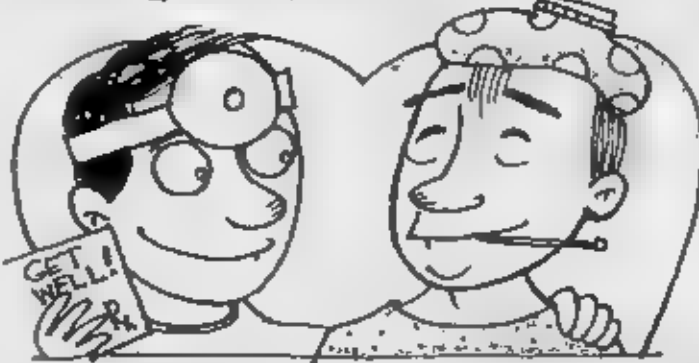
the authors note in the current issue of Child Development.

It should be noted, however, that the women in this study did not have significant mental health problems—they were not depressed and they did not have anxiety disorders—but rather reflect the range of "normal" stress and anxiety common to working women with multiple roles and responsibilities.

"It's possible the results would be different if the study had included women with more chronic, physical or severe stress in their daily lives," DiPietro said.

Reuters

Empathy for patients



By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

EMPATHY FOR PATIENTS, ALSO referred to as a doctor's "bedside manners," is one learnable skill that probably makes average but empathetic doctors more effective healers than brilliant but insensitive medical practitioners. It's the "art" part of medicine, which is frequently neglected as a doctor focuses more on the science part.

Empathy is an important part of a doctor-patient relationship, wherein a doctor must be able to put himself into the patient's shoes and understand what the latter is feeling. It goes beyond making the right diagnosis and writing the best prescription for the patient.

Coined by German psychologist Theodore Lipps in the 1880s, the term empathy describes a process by which the doctor understands a patient's experience of being sick by vicariously sharing that experience while maintaining an observant stance so he can remain objective in his medical decisions. This is why attending to a seriously-ill patient can be physically, mentally and emotionally draining for a physician.

Curriculum lack

It's a pity that the medical curriculum does not devote suffi-

cient teaching time for medical students to develop the skills for empathy. It has thus remained misunderstood and underused.

Health educators consider empathetic communication a teach-

able, learnable skill that has tangible bene-

fits for both clinician and patient. It enhances the clinician-patient relationship which somehow alleviates the misery of being sick. Appropriate use of empathy as a communication tool facilitates the clinical interview, increases the efficiency of gathering information and makes the patient feel good.

"I feel honored the way my doctor is treating me," said a patient whose surgeon just removed a tumor from his colon.

Studies show that empathy improved health outcomes, led to better patient compliance and reduced medico-legal risk. A woman whose husband died after

heart surgery said, "If only my husband's doctors showed empathy, I would not be filing a malpractice case against them."

Key steps

According to Dr. Frederic Platt, the following are the key steps to effective empathy:

1. Recognizing the presence of strong feelings in the clinical setting such as fear, anger, grief and disappointment.

2. Pausing to imagine how the patient might be feeling.

3. Stating one's perception of the patient's feeling (i.e., "I can imagine that must be..." or "It sounds like you're upset about...")

4. Legitimizing that feeling as valid and appropriate.

5. Respecting the patient's effort to cope with the predicament.

6. Offering support and partnership (i.e., "I'm committed to working with you to..." or "Let's see what we can do to-

gether to..."). Simple ways by which a doctor can show empathy are: explaining to the patient what his/her illness is and the rationale for the various medications prescribed, feedback on the effect of treatment, rendering appropriate touch, returning phone calls and making follow-up calls to check on his/her condition (without billing him/her for the calls).

Empathy is different from sympathy.

"It's not feeling sorry for a patient but understanding what they're going through," says Dr. Johanna Shapiro, a respected professor of family medicine in the United States.

In empathy, we "borrow" another's feelings to observe, feel and understand them, but not to take them onto ourselves. By being a participant-observer, we come to understand how the other person feels so we can help him/her better.

Sympathy involves sharing with the sufferer as if the pain belonged to both the patient and the doctor. We sympathize with others when we share and suffer with them. For the doctor to be more effective in helping his patient get well, he can't completely share the patient's plight. If he does, he would not be healthy enough nor his judgment be objective enough to help the patient.



TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
ED-ET Project
Tender No. LCB ED-ET-01-06
Training Equipment, Tools and Accessories in Lots:

Lot 8b Food Processing	Php 12,248,000.00
Lot 11 - Tourism	Php 10,660,000.00

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a credit from KfW towards the cost of the Expansion of Dual Education and Training (ED-ET) being carried out by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to apply this credit for payments under the contract for Eleven (11) lots for the Supply of Training Equipment, Tools, Publications, Computer, Audio-Visual Equipment, Furniture and Accessories.

TESDA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Training Equipment, Tools and Accessories. Delivery of the Goods to the TESDA Institutional sites shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section 2 of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through limited bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) owned and/or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section 2 of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Floor, TESDA Administration Building, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 04, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., Aquino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before August 08, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of:

- Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to 1% of ABC; or
- Bank Guarantee equivalent to 1% of ABC; or
- Surety Bond equivalent to 24% of ABC

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on August 16, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the Aquino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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Chairman, BAC

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Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Tel. No. 817-40-75 to 80 and 893-6296

Fax No. 817-90-40

E-mail: psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph

Website: www.tesda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) SECRETARY AUGUSTO ROBOY

PD- June 17, 2006



Republic of the Philippines
PANGASINAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 928-5681 Telex No. (632) 922-2588 (632) 920-2439

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), through its Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC), is inviting interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Assignment of MWSS' Receivables and its Right and Obligation to Subscribe to 63.37% Equity in Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Transaction).

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures and shall be governed by applicable Philippine laws, rules and regulations. The bidding process for the Transaction shall have three (3) phases, namely: Phase 1 (Preparation Phase), Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase), and Phase 3 (Bidding Phase).

Interested parties may secure copies of the Bidding Documents, which include the Instructions to Bidders (ITB), at the Secretariat of the MWSS Special Bids and Awards Committee, located at the St. Deputo Administrator's Office, Ground Floor, MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines, starting on 26 June 2006 until 10 July 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand US Dollars (US\$5,000.00). The mode of payment shall be cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received by the interested parties themselves or their duly authorized representatives. All interested parties securing copies of the Bidding Documents shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the said Bidding Documents and to signify their acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Bidding Documents by executing the form attached to the Bidding Documents as Schedule 2 (Acknowledgment) and submitting the same to the Committee at the address given below no later than 2:00 p.m. of 21 July 2006. Only those interested parties who have submitted the Bidding Documents and submitted the Acknowledgment before the deadline provided therefor shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Late submission of the Bidding Documents shall not be accepted.

Interested parties who have submitted the Acknowledgment within the deadline provided above shall submit the Required Documents enumerated in Clause 7.1 of the ITB to the Committee at the address given below no later than 2:00 p.m. of 21 July 2006. The Committee shall inform the interested parties no later than 26 July 2006 if they are eligible to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction.

Interested parties who are found eligible to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction may secure copies of the Bidding Materials enumerated in Clause 8.1 of the ITB at the address given below starting on 26 July 2006 until 28 July 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand US Dollars (US\$1,000.00). The mode of payment shall be cash or manager's check. The Bidding Materials shall be received by the interested parties themselves or their duly authorized representatives. Only those interested parties who purchased the Bidding Materials shall be allowed to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction as "Bidders".

The Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Documents enumerated in Clause 11.1 of the ITB to the Committee in accordance with Clause 12 of the ITB at the address given below no later than 2:00 p.m. of 11 August 2006. The Committee shall inform the Bidders no later than 25 August 2006 if the said Bidders have pre-qualified and are eligible to participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction. Only those Bidders who have pre-qualified and are deemed eligible to participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process by the Committee shall be allowed to further participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process as "Qualified Bidders". Late submission of the Eligibility Documents shall not be accepted.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on 27 September 2006 at a place to be announced later.

Qualified Bidders must submit their Bid Proposals compliant with Clause 18 of the ITB to the Committee in accordance with Clause 21 of the ITB no later than 2:00 p.m. of 24 October 2006 at a place to be announced later. Late submission of Bid Proposals shall not be accepted.

The MWSS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid Proposals, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bid Proposals at any time prior to the award of the Transaction to the winning bidder, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

The MWSS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify interested parties and/or bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their applications and bids.

(Sgd.) OSCAR I. GARCIA

MWSS Special Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road,
Balara, Quezon City, Philippines

PD- June 17, 2006



Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 - (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph Web site: http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF BENEFICIARY	DATE OF DECEASE
1) Cirilo A. Abendaño	86 B P Gomez St., Tecnoban City	Pedro C. Abendaño SSA06-0374836-1	February 24, 2006
2) Edralin Abraham	Unknown	Ybaniel Abraham SSA03-3163029-2	September 4, 2005
3) Danilo Acosta	2981 Sio. St. Carmona, Makati City	Virginia Acosta SSA03-0481190-6	November 7, 2005
4) Alileo G. Basada	Borongan, Eastern Samar	Zanion Basada SSA03-1377078-4	August 28, 2005
5) Catalina U. Campo	Unknown	Parides Campo SSA03-1618363-1	November 18, 2005
6) Pilar Villar	413 St. Salinas, Bacolod City	Reynaldo Carlos SSA03-3831149-0	September 5, 2005
7) Rosalinda Calimaran Dapitan	242 E. Tiazon, Nervosa, Rizal	Nestor R. Dapitan SSA03-134792-4	February 24, 2006
8) Emily Delavina	Unknown	Rosario D. Delavina SSA03-355357-7	January 14, 2006
9) [REDACTED]	7 Stela Pardo Comp., Purok 4, Pangasinan, Bacolod City	[REDACTED] SSA03-0582781-8	December 30, 2005
10) Corazon Tatalan	943 Ibarra, Bacalaran, Pangasinan	Jesus Dolon SSA03-032644-3	December 9, 2005
11) Lilia Magpayang	53 Morning Breeze, Gen. Concepcion, Cebu City	Adriano M. Erlandes SSA03-3901973-4	March 29, 2006
12) Manuel Flores	Unknown	Lucia Flores SSA01-0933975-3	October 19, 2005
13) Visitacion O. Gato	825 M. Navel St., Navotas, Metro Manila	Eliseo S. Gato SSA03-2709662-9	March 12, 2006
14) Ritzelina Malapaya Garcia	700, Talon St., Bla. Cav. Laguna	Roberto A. Garcia SSA03-454661-1	March 16, 2006
15) Norma Caballes Hede Linaran, Cagayan	Gregorio Hede, Cagayan	Gregorio Hede SSA03-0066270-6	December 14, 2005
16) Melody Juliana	Unknown	Edmundo Juliana SSA03-3730168-8	
17) Camella Mapili	Begonia Pag-ang, San Roque II, Pag-ang, QC	Raymundo Mapili SSA03-3053464-4	March 26, 2006
18) Miguela Mojica	Unknown	Yerusa Marcela SSA04-005391-1	March 21, 2006
19) Janette Alonzo	Cebu City	Edison M. Nacario SSA03-185341-9	April 1, 2006
20) Meechito B. Lopez	Bay St. Nino I.	Marlou Clear SSA03-3971236-3	January 12, 2004
21) Alberto, Vebly	O.C.	Amadeo J. Prioleto SSA03-3366903-8	April 24, 2002
22) Gabriel Reyes Juan Miguel Reyes	Unknown	Padrilo O. Reyes SSA03-274849-8	April 13, 2006
23) Teresa Torres-Reardo	Unknown	Jose A. Reardo SSA03-8569774-0	January 4, 2006
24) Melchor Revilla	Vinzon, Camarines Norte	Soledad Revilla SSA03-2 23921-7	March 5, 2006
25) Dave Merlo	Unknown	Melanie Briones Sabado SSA03-3430501-2	October 11, 2004
26) Gregorio Camacho	Guthrie, Neg. Or	Pedro Semblado SSA07-0602052-0	August 22, 1997
27) Apple Presada Teney	Bay St. Cruz, Bal. Camarines Sur	Jerico B. Teney SSA03-9028353-4	July 28, 2001
28) Victoria Tayab	Pasig, Angeles, Rizal	Lia Tayab SSA03-5757989-5	April 18, 2005
29) Arlene Villanueva	365 Mayang Rd., Valenzuela, M.M.	Rodrigo B. Villanueva SSA03-5829423-8	December 24, 2005
30) Sofia Olmo Yumang	Mandaluyong City	Ruben M. Yumang SSA03-5829423-8	May 22, 2006

- Nothing follows -

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Tours, Leisure & Choice

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory
of the country's best establishments

ASTORIA
Astoria Plaza
151 E. Escriba Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City 600
Tel. (02) 899-1111, Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave. cor. Kalayaan St. Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111, Fax (02) 899-1415
Email: makati.citygardenhotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 West Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinsig, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

Edsa Shangri-la Manila
Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St. Manila
Tel. 521 1000 Fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carina St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 444-9970 to 71740-8975
Fax: (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpinehotel@skyline.net

Hotel Venz
No. 1 Abasco St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelvenz@skyline.net
www.hotelvenz.com

Las Palmas Hotel
16 A Mabini St. Manila
Tel. (521) 521 1000 Fax (521) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Pasig de Rosas cor. Makao Ave. Makati City
www.mandarinoriental.com

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 81-4888 Fax 81-4777
www.ritzcarlton.com

Palm Plaza Hotel
Rodrigo Gil corner M. Adriano St., Manila
Tel. (02) 521 1000 Fax 523-8011
www.palmplazahotel.com

Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Kapuntan Island Garden, City of Samal
Tel. (082) 22-9970 to 73
Manila: (02) 750-1896 Fax (082) 221-9979

SOMERSET
Somerset Saigodo, Makati
M.Y. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Uvieto St.,
Saigodo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 886-6668 Fax 886-6655

SOMERSET
Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax 812-7771

SOMERSET
Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax 818-8254

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeview, Northridge
Alibon, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-919 / Fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

The Regent Hotel
Edsa Angeles St. Naga City
Tel. (6354) 472-2626 / Fax (6354) 472-2525

Camp John Hay Manor
Luzon Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax 524-4844
Email: citygardenreservations@citygardenhotels.com

CSB HOTEL
Arelan Ave., cor. Esmeralda St., Makati, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitnikko@usit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72, Banaag, Naga, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9193 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9199
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

GARDEN PLAZA
Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
030 Belen St., Pasig, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835 / Fax (632) 522-4840

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lungsod, Davao City
Tel. (82) 225-0888 / (82) 224-3858

INTERCONTINENTAL
Intercontinental Manila
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. 815-971
www.intercontinental.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapa Lapa Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288 Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

MANILA PAVILION
Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 Fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Gloria 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (632) 729-8888 loc. 8101 Fax (632) 728-0000 / e: oakwood@oakwood.com.ph
www.oakwood.com

Royal Mandaya
J. Palma St. Davao City
Tel. (82) 225-8888 Fax (82) 225-1088

Subic
Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila: 243-2237 / F 243-0852
http://www.subicohotel.com

SUMMER PLACE BUFFET
Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0580 446-5400-01
www.summerplacebaguio.com

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. 632 888-4125 (6346) 413-000
Email: taalvista@fuegohotels.com

The Marco Polo
C4 Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (82) 221-0888 Fax (82) 225-0111
www.theframeworks.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City
Tel. (632) 231-6888 Fax (632) 232-6800
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapa Lapa City 8015
Tel. (632) 340-4888 Fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

HALFWAY THROUGH A BUSY year, have you dreamt of taking a well-deserved break? How about a relaxing day or two in an elegantly furnished room, a spa treat for two, while the kids are frolicking at the outdoor swimming pool, or a romantic dinner overlooking the city lights of the metropolis? All these you can do at City Garden Hotel Makati, without the hassle of long drives, traffic, and exorbitant prices.

First, check-in to one of its well-appointed guest rooms that come for as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis. This already includes a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Le Jardin.

After check-in, try out their fully-equipped gym and sauna or take a dip in their open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck. Or better yet, you may opt to explore nearby Powerplant Mall at Rockwell or Glorietta Mall for some shopping.

For those craving for some Japanese treats, try City Garden Hotel Makati's on-going food promotion entitled, "Taste of Japan", offering delectable sushi and

sashimi, appetizing soups and salads, and mouth-watering Tempura, Yakitori, Teppanyaki, Gyo-don and Teriyaki.

After a day of fun activities, try the Bamboo Bliss, a signature Spa package at the newly opened Bamboo Massage & Spa at the Upper Penthouse, or a facial treatment for two for a relaxing and rejuvenating retreat. The Bamboo Bliss starts with an aromatherapy whirlpool bath followed by a full body scrub and finished with a highly relaxing massage.

For dinner, do not miss the Roofdeck Bar & Grill. Offering sumptuous grilled specialties and appetizers, it has the best view of the metropolis at night. A great way to end a great day!

For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquiries, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com.



Acoustic night at Café Astoria

NOW THAT THE COOLER WEATHER IS HERE, CAFÉ ASTORIA IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO chill out. Listen to the soothing sounds of the different bands and appreciate some good food, good beer and good company. All you can drink Draft Beer for only P290++ from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Saturday. 5+1 on all local beers for only P380++ from 6 p.m. onwards from Mondays to Saturdays. For information, please visit Astoria Plaza at No. 15 J. Escriba Drive, (formerly Amber Avenue) Ortigas Business District, Pasig City or call 687-1111.

Waterfront Hotel Indulgence 2006

WITH THE OVERWHELMING success of Waterfront Hotels & Casinos' Indulgence program, the country's largest Filipino-owned Hotel chain is now gearing up for another round of irresistible offerings. "With the re-launch of Indulgence 2006, guests now have the chance to relive and enjoy delicious perks and generous discounts in any of the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos across the country," delivers WHC corporate sales and marketing director Joey Bernardino.

WHC's Indulgence program 2006 has an added perk: It now includes in its expanding roster of properties their newest acquisition, the newly renovated and revamped Manila Pavilion Hotel. "Indulgence is a celebration of 4 hotels with 1 booklet," says Bernardino. Another

added premium is a new feature for 2006: Instead of the 5+1 promo in previous years, this year's Indulgence will feature value for money and a straight up rate of just P10,000 each! Each booklet entitles the bearer to 4 overnight room accommodations, translating to one over-night stay in any of the following hotel properties of their choice: Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino and Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino Mactan, both located in Cebu City; Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao and Manila Pavilion Hotel. Moreover, the booklet also holds one additional voucher that entitles guests to a delicious complimentary buffet for one person for every 4 paying guests in Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's UNO, Waterfront Airport Ho-

tel & casino Mactan's UNO and in Manila Pavilion Hotel's newly re-opened Seasons.

Indulgence 2006 booklets are limited in supply and its vouchers are valid up to Dec. 31. For inquiries and reservations, one may call the Waterfront Hotels & Casinos Manila Sales and Reservations Office at (02) 687-0888, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino at (032) 232-6888, Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino Mactan at (032) 340-4888, Manila Pavilion Hotel at (02) 526-1212 and Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao at (082) 233-2881. Interested parties may avail of Indulgence 2006 booklets at the Front Offices and Business Centers of the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos, Manila Sales and Reservations Office and Accredited Travel Agencies.



FIFA WORLD CUP GERMANY 2006

WORLD CUP 2006 MANIA @ THE BELLEVUE MANILA
Kick off to a great soccer adventure with World Cup 2006 Mania @ The Bellevue Manila. Starting June 10, catch the FIFA World Cup Germany 2006 live via satellite at The Bellevue Hotel's 20/20 Sports Bar. Be in the thick of the action with the full surround speakers and plasma TVs while enjoying your favourite drink! A basketful of sweet fruits in season on top of a creamy cake, Passion Fruit Charlotte Cake, is The Bellevue Hotel's Cake of the Month for June. Treat yourself to slice upon slice of heaven with this delicately made cake that's as marvelous a treat for the eyes as it is to the palate. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

'A Day for Dads' at Dusit Hotel Nikko

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO HONORS FATHERS with the ultimate treat on Father's Day. On June 17 and 18, treat dad to a sumptuous meal offered in the hotel's authentic Asian specialty restaurants where he can get exciting perks and freebies.

Avail of the special lunch and dinner buffet at The Café and partake on the best buffet selections in town. Benjarong, Benkay, Thien Duong, and Fiesta San Miguel offers sumptu-

ous set menus for lunch and dinner fit for Kings, guaranteed to satisfy dad's appetite. Dads dining in any of the restaurants and availed of the Father's Day buffet and set menu offerings will be given special gift items from Suriya Spa and Rustan's Essences. Moreover, when you buy a bottle of wine for your dad, he will receive a special "alpha male kit" (limited offer only).

Unwind and drink splendid wine while you

nibble on luscious hors d'oeuvres amidst the relaxing ambience of the Lobby Lounge. Choose from an invigorating collection of red and white wines to recharge weary spirits and prep up your evening with fabulous friends. Heighten your senses with our Wine Buffet from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. for only P500++ per person.

For inquiries and dining reservations, call 867-3333.

People, Events & Products

INSULAR LIFE BAGS READER'S DIGEST GOLD TRUSTED BRAND AWARD

Insular Life, the first and largest Filipino Life Insurance company was adjudged as the Gold Awardee under the insurance category for the second consecutive year in the Reader's Digest Trusted Brand Survey. Insular Life scored high in the survey's quantitative and qualitative scores, performing clearly above other brands. It placed ahead of competitors as more respondents identified Insular Life as their insurance company of choice. On the other hand, the Company earned consumers' nod in five key brand values: Quality, Value, Trustworthiness, Strong Image and Understanding of Customer Needs. The Reader's Digest Asia Trusted Survey is highly esteemed as it is considered an accurate index of consumer preference. Photo shows Insular Life chair of the Board and CEO Vicente R. Ayllon (3rd from left) holding the Gold Trophy with Reader's Digest executives, (from left) Mark Cass, Reader's Digest (RD) Southeast Asia advertising director, Jim Plouffe RD editor-in-chief, Simon Cholmeley, RD regional advertising director, and Lillet Yan, RD sales director.



The Directors, Officers and Staff of

ALLIED BANKING CORPORATION

express their heartfelt sympathies to the family of

SYLVIA CHAN LIM

former Senior Vice President and Head of Treasury Division

who passed away in the grace of our Lord on June 8, 2006
in San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

We join her family, relatives, friends, and pious readers
in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body will lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine - Parish
5th St., Doña J. Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City
on Friday, June 16, 2006.

Mass will be on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.
at the Chapels 7 to 10, Mortuary and Crematory,
The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.
Interment will follow after the mass.

In lieu of flowers, check donations may be accepted
payable to **The Cancer Institute Foundation, Inc.**

In Loving Memory
of

ZOSIMO L. ANGAN

on his
1st Death
Anniversary
on June 17, 2006



Schedule of Masses

St. Therese of the Child Jesus	6:00 AM
Lahug, Cebu City	
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish	12:15 PM
Capitol Site, Cebu City	
Redemptorist Church	5:30 PM
Cebu City	
Holy Spirit Parish	6:00 A.M.
BF Homes, Quezon City	
Sto. Nino de la Paz Parish	12:15 PM
Greenbelt, Makati City	
Sanctuario de San Antonio Chapel	6:00 PM
Forbes Park, Makati City	
San Isidro Labrador Parish	6:30 PM
Greenland Subdivision, Markina City	

His family requests relatives, friends and readers
to remember him in their prayers.

JANINA MARIE SALINAS VELOSO

Passed away in the grace of our Lord
at the tender age of 13, on June 15, 2006

Her parents Junie and Nini; grandparents Remece R. Veloso, Vic and Nati Salinas; uncles Rico and Elli; aunt Bliesie; great grandparents Pedro and Chit Madrinan; godparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla Dela Virgen at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. A funeral Mass will be held on Sunday, June 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Minerva Ibrado Chavez

of Sagay, Negros Occidental
and Alabang, Muntinlupa

Joined her husband, Col. Ladislao Locsin Chavez,
in God's kingdom on June 14, 2006 at age 82.

Her children:

Mila Wong; Frank & Jean; Jennifer & Bernie Quesnelle; Marilyn; Ladislao Jr. & Rosie; Minerva & Leoncio Duran Jr.; Lauris & Guada; Gwen & Magdy Youssef; Lister & Mimi; Samantha & Rino Que

Her grandchildren:

Anson & Aya; Angie & Chad; Katrina & Charles Bernard, Stephanie, Ingrid; Valerie; Chiqui & Jason, Shani & Jason, Jon Lad; Adrian Paul, Ruth Nicole; Mariel, Minerva Ann, Martin; Philip Anton; Mark Lister, Miguel Luis, Immanuel Lad, Victoria Isabel, Kristina Camille; Mark Allen, Marci Grace

Her Great grandchildren:
Nathan, Frank Ethan, Logan

request friends and other relatives to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Del Pilar Chapel, Funeraria Paz,
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.
following an early Mass at the Del Pilar Chapel.

GERONIMO "KA GERRY" K. KAMUS

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on June 15, 2006 at the age of 74.

His body lies in state at Doña Aurora Chapel, Arlington East, Raymundo Ave., Pasig. Interment will be announced later.

I have fought the
good fight,
I have finished
the race, I have
kept the faith
(2 Timothy 4)

Our Dear Lord has called
our dearest Mother

Corazon P. Abalos

to join Him at the age of 84,
on Thursday, 15th of June, 2006
at 5:25 p.m.

We, her children: Chita, Ramon, Angelo, Boots, Nick, George, Baby, Remy, Tito, Ditas and Resie; her grandchildren, brothers, sisters, in-laws and relatives request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in the state of Funeraria Paz, Aranceta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

"...absent from the body to be
present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8



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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ● Copy of Death Certificate

● Any identification document (I.D.)

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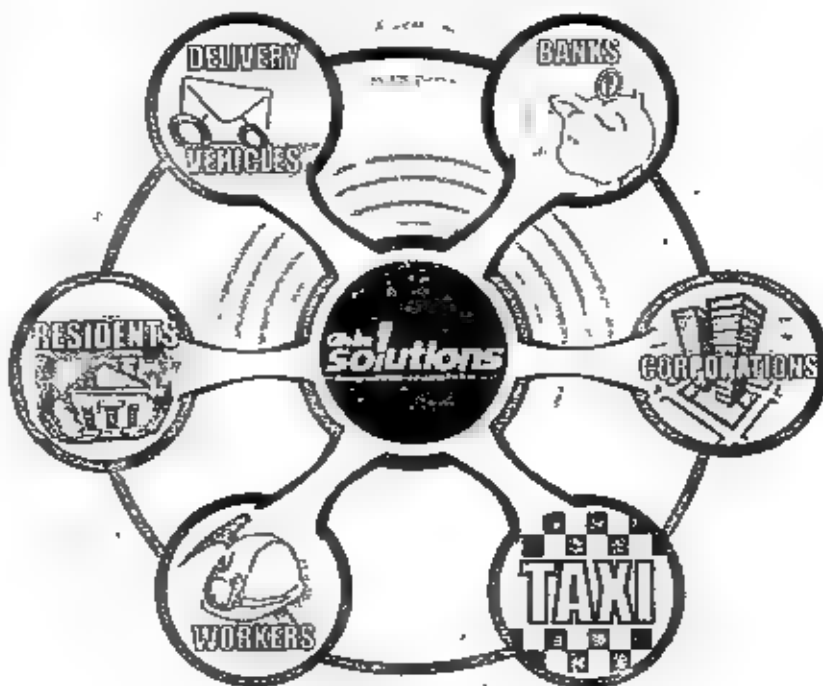
Over the years GlobeSolutions has provided customized business solutions for a wide array of companies from a variety of industries. They are able to achieve this by continuously staying on the cutting edge of technology and working closely with their clients to develop products and services enabling large corporations to enhance and efficiently manage their current operations as well as increase their revenue potentials and productivity.

Machine to Machine communication or M2M is one of the cutting edge applications that GlobeSolutions has been working on together with partners. GlobeSolutions has successfully applied it to automatic inventory updates.

Pay@Table service for an upscale coffee and restaurant chain, a business solution that uses a wireless POS terminal brought to the customer's table. The customer's credit card is then swiped and the transaction receipt printed out for the customer's signature without the need for the credit card to leave his sight. The entire transaction done via GPRS takes only 3 seconds making card payments faster, more convenient, and more secure.

Another example of how GlobeSolutions works as an enabler is when a banking corporation needed to provide their

GlobeSolutions is the enabler connecting Corporations, Clients and Businesses



data access networks like GPRS, EDGE, 3G and 3.5G (HSDPA). Combined with Ingenico terminals, this wireless access gave the bank the capability to process payments and other business transactions beyond the limits of a traditional fixed-line set-up. This means that stores and restaurants such as high class restaurants in Tagaytay and gas stations in remote locations all across the Philippines can now start accepting card payments where this was not possible before. This solution is also ideal for a delivery service business, allowing customers the ability to swipe their credit cards at their very own doorstep.

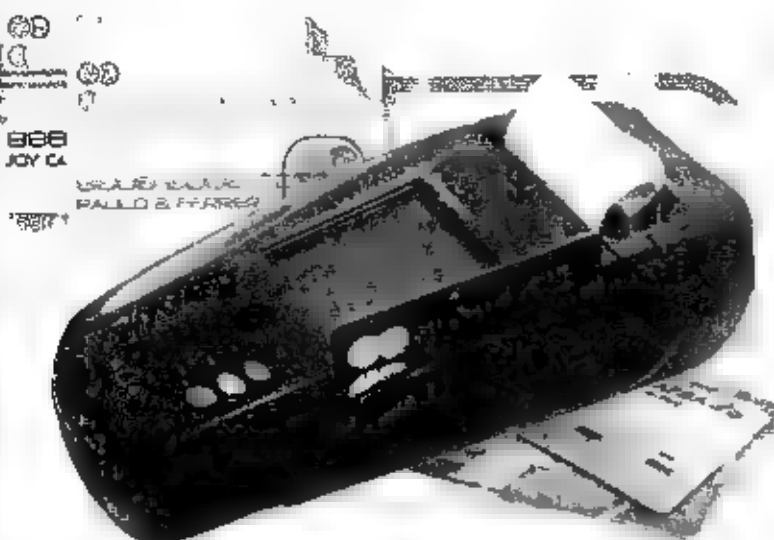
A banking corporation's wider reach, Merchant Express' Pay@Table and Pay@Door their services are just several

examples of how GlobeSolutions can implement an application like M2M to help businesses expand their storefront, enhance customer servicing and improve efficiency. Their alliance with Ingenico and service providers like Merchant Express only shows how GlobeSolutions is willing to team up with various partners to create the right solution that can change the way companies do business for the better.

The face of business is changing. To stay in step with the times and one step ahead of competition, it's time to bring in new solutions. Find out what GlobeSolutions can do for your company. Call 730-1999 to find out how.

Globe
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making great things possible for business
and its partners enable credit card payments at your clients doorstep



The 88200 mobile terminal that uses GPRS/GSM to make credit card transactions almost anywhere.

Developed for a client that has a nationwide network of outlets, this solution allowed the inventory of all remote offices to be linked to the head office for real time updates and information.

credit card holders with transaction capabilities even in far-flung areas that may not have access to phone lines. Enter GlobeSolutions with wireless

GlobeSolutions also partners with application developers and equipment suppliers such as Ingenico to provide clients with innovative business solutions on the forefront of technology

Ingenico is the world's number one Electronic Funds Transfer Point-of-Sale (EFTPOS) terminal manufacturer. Established in 1980, the French company has shipped over 10 million terminals to 90 countries worldwide. It was only natural that GlobeSolutions would partner with them to provide payment solutions for a variety of clients.

In fact, GlobeSolutions together with Ingenico and Merchant Express, has spawned the

Ecija power facilities to be sold

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. (PSALM) is keen on auctioning off the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower facilities after the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) goes into commercial operation.

PSALM president Nieves Osorio, however, did not give a firm date on when the plant package would be placed on the auction block.

"Since it's a peaking plant, we want (to bid it out) after the start of the operation of the spot market. But the really serious investors want (the bidding) this year," she said.

In September last year, PSALM opened the bidding for the Pantabangan-Masiway facilities, both located in Nueva Ecija, via published bid invitations that said interested parties could submit letters of intent (LOIs) until Oct. 12.

Only entities that have submitted LOIs for the plant package would be allowed to participate in the bidding process.

Interested bidders will have to sign confidentiality agreements with PSALM and pay a non-refundable participation fee of \$1,000 to be able to secure bidding packages that will contain the bidding procedures for the assets.

The pre-bid conference for the Pantabangan-Masiway plants was held last Oct. 19. Interested investors were allowed to conduct due diligence on the hydro facilities from Oct. 3 to Nov. 25.

Bidders will also be required to post bid securities worth \$2 million for the Pantabangan-Masiway plants in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit from a local bank.

PSALM had said in its bid invitations that it would announce the exact date of the bidding at a later date. But no announcements had yet been made.

At present, PSALM is working on the privatization of the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power plants, which had already gone through two failed biddings, and the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession.

MWSS issues bid requirements for west concession

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT-RUN METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in July will issue the prequalification requirements for companies vying for its 83.97 percent stake in west concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz said companies interested in taking part in the auction would have until September to submit the pre-qualification documents.

"We would like to give them enough time to study the terms of reference the Maynilad Board has recently approved," Cruz said.

The MWSS is currently seeking proposals from qualified private companies, who will be awarded the right to subscribe to Maynilad shares.

The winning bidder will take over and continue operations of the west zone for the remaining years of the 25-year concession.

However, according to the Terms of Reference, the winning bidder will also have to assume Maynilad's obligations under the Debt and Capital Restructuring Agreement.

According to the terms drafted by ABN-Amro Bank N.V., interested parties may form a consortium for the purpose of participating in the selection process.

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest, confidentiality agreement, and a pre-qualification security bond worth \$100,000, to be issued as an irrevocable standby letter of credit.

The winning bidder will have the option to secure the 16-percent equity equivalent to 236 million shares held by French firm Lyonnaise Asia Water (Holdings) Pte. Ltd., and Metrobank and Trust Company's 524,000 shares equivalent to 0.03 percent.



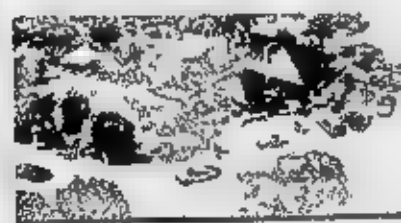
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PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

'Boring' facilities management Ayala's secret weapon

By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASED dependence on facilities management—the globally accepted term for such a task. Property owners nowadays prefer to be relieved of the day-to-day operations of their buildings so that they can focus on their core businesses. Thus, the "dirty" job is relegated or given to property professionals.

While the buildings are technologically advancing in terms of equipment, there's more professional focus on how to maintain facilities.

One facilities management group is Ayala Property Management Corp., which is not just involved in the design and the implementation stage of the buildings but is also consulted on what works well and what can be easily maintained. APMC provides inputs even during the design stage of construction.

APMC is also part of testing and commissioning of equipment prior to operations. This team sees to it that before a building is turned over to the owners of condominiums, or prior to mall operations, equipment such as elevators are running and stress-tested. Testing includes running the equipment for over 24 hours to make sure there is ample time for adjustments and repairs.

So how does it feel to be on top of a company that needs to maintain a reputation?

Thankless job

Raul M. Irlanda, president of APMC, says that the more opera-

tions run smoothly, the more invisible a property administrator and his team in the facility management become.

Says Irlanda: "It's a thankless job. The main objective is to delight the customer. In a particular building there are a thousand and one things that can go wrong, and they normally do. (That's) Murphy's Law. And when that thing hits the fan, it's always the facilities management guy that gets hit."

Irlanda is quick to add that the people have seen the facilities management through time.

"The value is enhanced and preserved over time. You don't see an Ayala-developed building that is decrepit or rundown. This is largely because APMC ensures that the value of the property appreciates over time," he says.

"Anything and everything that Ayala develops, APMC operates. Be it commercial center operations, office building, residential buildings, condominiums, subdivisions, industrial parks, water systems, parking—it's being taken care of by one company APMC," Irlanda says.

"We're the only management company that has heavy parking operations. We have close to 13,000 parking slots," he says.

Irlanda says that his team is also into waterworks, parking, commercial centers, building operations, billing collection systems of Laguna Technopark and 6750, among other things.

Secret weapon

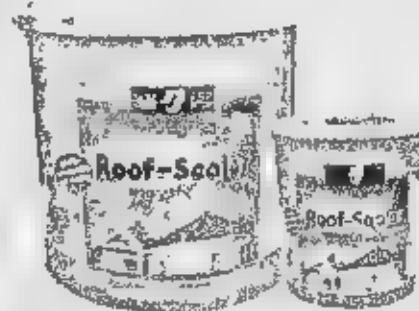
But it is also APMC's facilities management that becomes a se-

cret weapon, and would earn Ayala the most trusted Philippine real estate developer.

APMC has three ISO certifications: quality management, environmental management and health and safety. That means APMC's practices are world-class. ISO certifications also mean that the documentation and practices

of managing properties are all world-class.

Irlanda has a CFM after his name, and is a certification given by the international facilities management association. Being a CFM means going through a rigorous screening process. Irlanda is the first and only Filipino with a "CFM" to his name.



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WITH TWO levels of living space, even the one-bedroom unit feels more spacious.

Giving condo layout a fresh look

By Charles E. Buban

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, start-up families and even first time home buyers will likely be attracted to condominium living.

Relatively more affordable than single-family detached homes, buying a condo unit for this particular set of buyers is a better alternative than renting or buying a house and lot.

Moreover, aside from being located in highly favorable locations (like near or within business districts, shopping and recreational centers), a lot of condominiums built nowadays also come with attractive amenities including swimming pool, gym, playground for children, snack bar, uninterrupted water supply, a centralized system for garbage disposal and collection as well as 24-hour security service.

"One Sapphire Condominium is no different from the rest. However, while a lot of condo units are available in single level layouts, the developers of One Sapphire decided to construct a six-story building with all its units having bilevel layout," said Remylyn Tan, operations manager of RJ Llanet Development Corp.

One Sapphire's bilevel units are available in one-bedroom (33.59 sq m), two-bedroom (72.32 sq m) or three bedroom (78.87 sq m) layouts with prices ranging from P1.2 million to P3.7 million.

More privacy

Tan explains that a bilevel layout provide residents more

breathing space, gives its owners more interior design options and more important, privacy.

In the case of One Sapphire units, the bedroom areas are placed in the upper level, separated from the living, dining and kitchen area by a short flight of stairs.

"We value the privacy of our residents so that apart from moving the most intimate part of the home in the upper level, we also employed acoustic-friendly walls and floorings so that the sound coming from downstairs and even those from the neighboring units are much more muted," she added.

Although a bilevel layout is no longer new in condominium projects, One Sapphire is among the very few that employed the layout to all its units.

Model units are now available for viewing within the project site.

Located on Dr. Jose R. Fabella road (near the corner of Celia street), One Sapphire is just a few meters from the Mandaluyong City Hall or a short drive away from the Makati CBD (via R Burgos extension and Makati avenue) or Ortigas Center (via Boni avenue and Pioneer).

"This makes our condo project all the more attractive. Being in an urban location offers more lifestyle variety, stores, restaurants, movie theaters, entertainment and activities that suburban life doesn't offer. And another big plus—these amenities and services can be accessed with little driving," she assured.

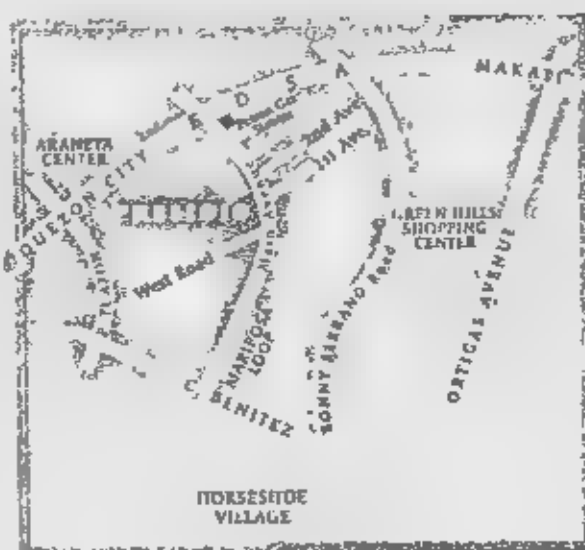
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PROPERTY

Revitalizing the home

AMONG THE NON-ASIAN COUNTRIES, IT IS observed that living spaces are increasingly being designed without a dedicated space for dining area nor a complete layout for a working kitchen.

This reflects the changing lifestyle and cultural habits of individuals and families where dining is considered to be an activity that is pre-emptively done at any time and at any place or even extracted from the home to resort to dine-out alternatives.

Preserved family practices

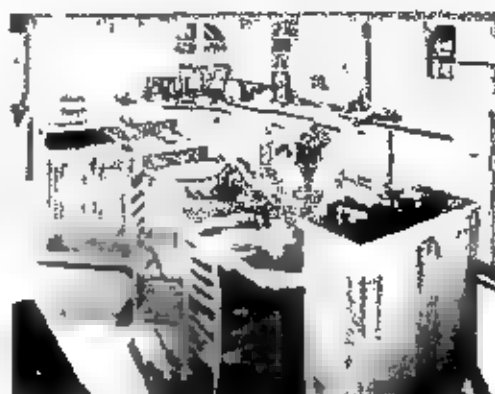
However, it is interesting to note that Filipino clients maintain a different taste from this. There is actually a particular eye for the dining and kitchen areas as what we experienced in dealings with a considerable number of clients. A number of them specified how these areas are expected to function in order to cater to their families' particular activities and habits.

We had one client who considered their kitchen to be the busiest place in the house. It was specified to be located proximate to the main entrance in order to readily welcome the family members who will be arriving from school or work. Nevertheless, this space remains to be discreetly situated away from view of guests and nonfamily members. In doing so, we still have to maintain its proximity to the stairway for convenience of access from the other parts of the house, especially the bedrooms.

More than the living room, the kitchen and dining areas are considered in actual practice to be the two best settings for interacting together. Kitchens are being designed to be functional and even sociable, tending to be a mere showcase. It is also designed to be child-friendly in order to encourage participation of children in home. Its proximity to the dining area is a logical consequence of the expectation that the meal served to the families is an output of a dynamic kitchen activity rather than merely provided by catering establishments.

Behavioral influence

The dining areas play a particular humanizing role in the home. Recent studies have supported the theory on children brought up with the habit of frequently taking



AN EXAMPLE of a user-friendly and multifunctional kitchen, designed by Jim Krengel

meals with the family, especially with their parents. They were observed and found out to have higher capacity to perform well in school, confident, emotionally stable and with a greater promise of being fulfilled professionally. Though there are flourishing hotels and restaurant businesses both in terms of architectural interior design and culinary expertise, these structures cannot replace the familial ambience, the special cuisine taste and the warmth of family conversations while dining right at your very home.

You can once again consider looking over at the status of your dining and kitchen areas at home. Is it fostering a family spirit? Does the layout and equipment available enable you to efficiently perform and to professionalize your work in the home? How can you reflect your personal style in decorating these spaces that will make your house a place that your family would look forward to going home to?

When it comes to these details, we architects can only do as much. The heart of the matter will depend on you.

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LIVING ARCHITECTURE



Marcos de Guzman Jr.



DINING areas play a humanizing role in the home as families are brought closer through their tradition of dining together.

THE BELLAGIO III A lifestyle abundant with luxury

PREMIER DEVELOPER MEGAWORLD CORP introduces discriminating homebuyers to a lifestyle that offers all the best things one can ask for. The Bellagio III, its latest urban cocoon in the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, proves that there is no such thing as moderation when it comes to luxury, comfort and convenience.

The Bellagio III, the third and last of the Bellagio Residences, magnifies every pleasure. From its superb golf course views and sophisticated homes to its first-rate leisure and lifestyle amenities and matchless location, the project sets a new standard of upper-crust living in the metropolis.

Golf course playground

The Bellagio III is set in a prime spot inside the Forbes Town Center, a P15-billion, five-hectare joint venture of Megaworld and Bonifacio West Development Corp. It brings condominium living literally to the edge of an icon of prestige: the Manila Golf and Country Club. The Forbes Town Center is the only project in the Global City that boasts the most expansive golf course views—almost half a kilometer long of sprawling Zoysia-covered landscape.

Like its predecessors, the fast-selling Bellagio I and II, the Bellagio III brings nature closer to its residents. Through tinted floor-to-ceiling glass windows, the project offers an eye-soothing sight of the green every day, from dusk till dawn.

Lavishness finds a home

Soaring 39 stories and boasting 454 master-planned units, the Bellagio III is the new address of "excess."

From the porte-cochere, returning homeowners step into luxury at the well-appointed, granite-paved lobby-cum-lounge, where glass window panels frame the captivating life-size views of the fairways outside.

The upper levels host a variety of condominium homes that are designed to meet every customer preference. There are executive studios, 58 to 69 square meters in size, and one-bedroom units that boast 92 to 106 square meters of living space. Both the executive studio and one-bedroom home come in loft-type layouts, featuring a second level that overlooks the living area. At the second level, the bedroom can serve as a den, study or storage room as the need arises. Megaworld's innovative loft-type unit answers the need for spacious and cozy accommodations. What's more, high windows

give residents intimate views of the golf course either from their living room or bedroom.

The Bellagio III features two-bedroom units, offering 85 to 95 square meters of space, and three-bedroom suites that are 119.3 to 209.5 square meters in size.

All units showcase design touches that play up the beauty and color of nature outside. The ceilings and walls are immaculately painted, while the living, dining and bedroom areas sport a wood plank floor laminate finish.

Centerpiece of pleasure

Every detail of the Bellagio III is tailored to the residents' pleasure. And the fun options at the podium are no less grand. Here, a tropical-inspired recreation area evokes images of beach sand and blue sea.

The pool deck features a stretch of powder-fine, synthetic white sand that leads to the swimming pool and children's wading pool. For the ultimate spa experience, there is an Aromatherapy Capsule that combines Hydrotherapy Tub, Wet Table, Steam and Vichy Shower services. Other facilities include a sauna, gym, children's play area, music/piano room, function room and day care center.

Contributing to the worry-free ambience are five high-speed elevators, multilevel parking and efficient 24-hour security. At the Bellagio III, residents are assured of an indulgent environment where their every need is met and their every whim catered to.

Interconnected way of life

At the Bellagio III, residents enjoy an edge in mobility given the project's proximity to the Global City's business, educational and commercial institutions.

The Bellagio III is linked to a modern network of roads and highways. The Makati and Ortigas business districts are accessible via the Edsa Kalayaan flyover, McKinley Road or C-5 Road. The recently completed Sampaguita West Ramps 1 and 2 and Collector Distribution (CD) Road connect the Global City to Pasig, Quezon City, Parañaque and the rest of Southern Metro Manila.

And that's not all. The Global City features world-class infrastructure through its underground piping system, which safely and efficiently distributes electricity, water and gas, plus an underground fiber optic cable network that supports broadband applications.



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CrownAsia Signature Homes are stand outs, wherever the new silk flags fly to herald a new project.



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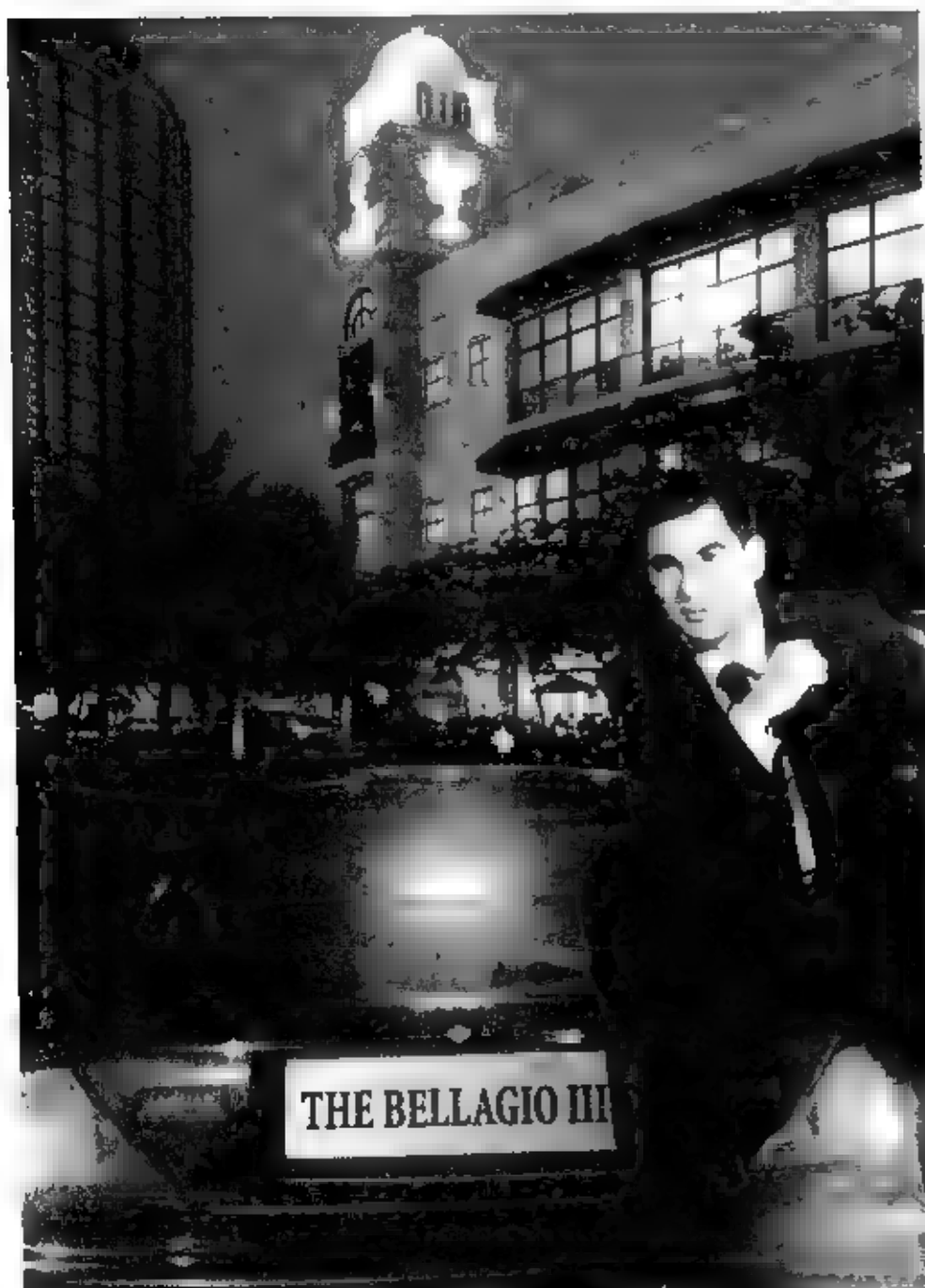
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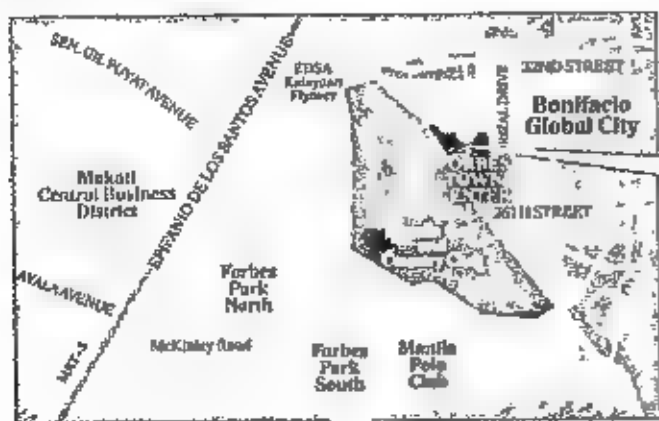
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Three fates

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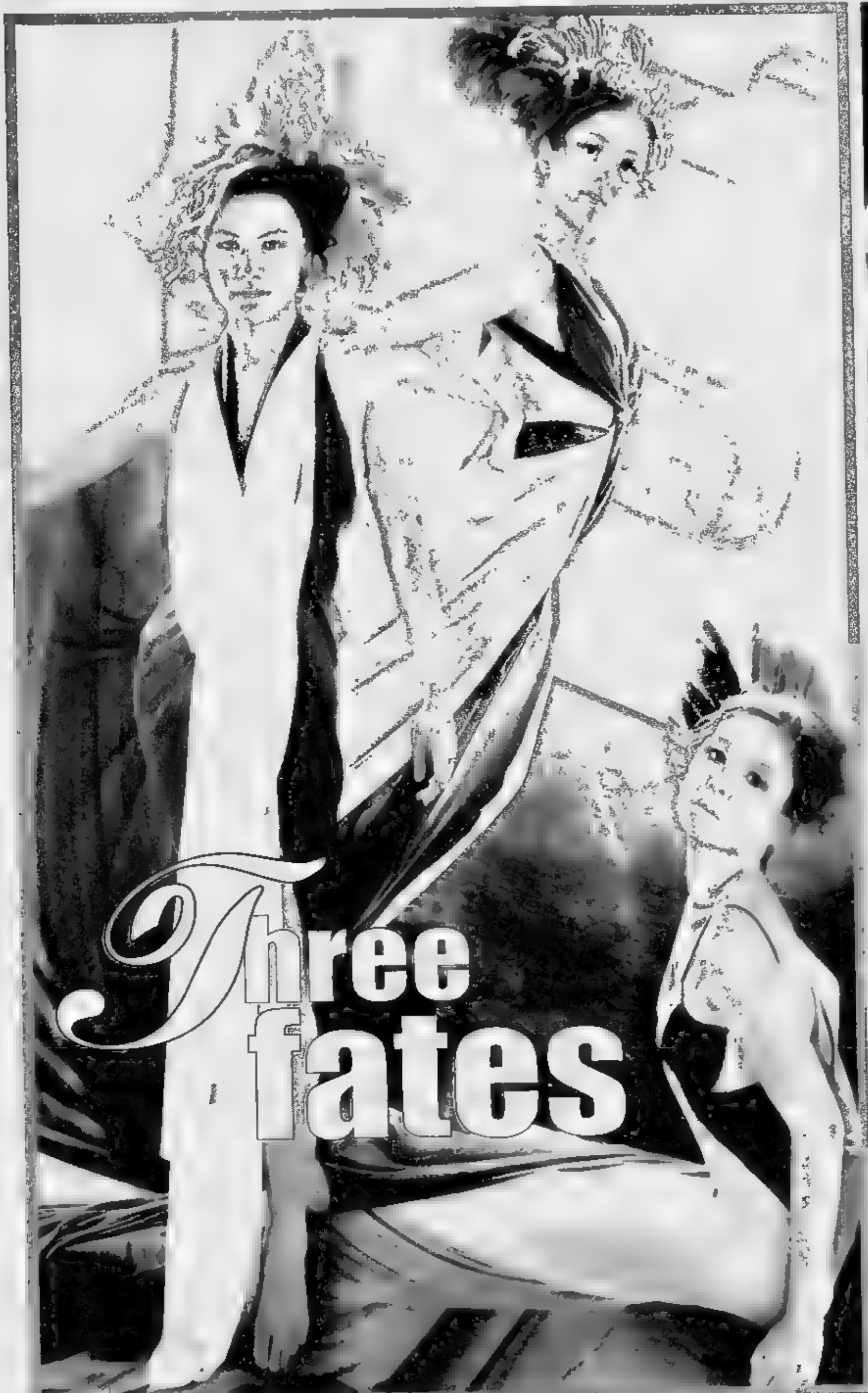
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Three fates

Nicole Hernandez

The thing about fame is that ... It's a state of mind. It usually doesn't last if you let it consume you.

The thing I love most about what I do is ... I get to work with so many different people, travel, and learn new things. Oh and the free goodies that I get from work don't hurt either! Hahaha!

People might be surprised to know that ... I was a geek in school, always studied in advance and that I loved my math subjects. Actually, I think I still am a geek.

The most important thing I've ever learned is ... that it is never too late to forgive. Harboring anger or hatred inside will only eat you up. It takes more energy being mad at someone than being friends with that person.

I wish when I started off I've been told to ... dream bigger and aim higher. I was so young when I started modeling so in the beginning, I was a bit scared and shy.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was ... that I got into a bad car accident in Zapote Road, Alabang. I thought that I broke my nose because it bled when I hit the car's head rest in front of me. Some of my carpool mates got hurt as well.

And this taught me to ... always wear seatbelts no matter how near we'll drive to. The secret to happiness is ... to always have peace of mind, live a simple life, and have faith in God.

My best ever outfit consisted of ... a short black icy cocktail dress that Rajo Laurel made for me for a wedding. I had the whole classic look going on.

My Super! Saturday night consists of ... vegetating on the couch accompanied with lots of clips, good DVDs and my boyfriend. The soundtrack to my life would include ... BLUE SKIES!

If I was invisible for a day, I would ... rob a bank and invest millions off-shore and give some to charity. . hahaha! Just kidding.

The thing that disappoints me is ... the superficiality of some people. Surprisingly though, I've found out who the true people in my life are. The best part is that some of the truest people in my life are those I least expected it from. That's what makes it even more special.

If I was the most powerful person on earth ... I would put an end to corruption and try to establish a community with a culture of generosity and fairness.

The best thing about family is that ... they are God's blessing to us.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say ... "Nicole was VERY talkative" haha... and nice, sweet, easy to get along with, thoughtful, loyal... hahaha!

If money was no option ... the world would be a better place to live in. There will be an absence of greed.

When I retire, I would like to ... have several houses around the world that I could live in for a period of time each year.

The world would be a much better place if ... people would sincerely care for each other.

My hero is ... my grandpa. He was a simple, loving and generous man.

The thing that makes my life worth living

is ... the people around me, my family, friends and God.

My greatest hope for the future is ... to have all my dreams come true.

The worst thing somebody said about me is ... probably false or exaggerated.

My favorite moments are ... when I get to do simple things like having a good meal or watching a good movie with my family, friends, and boyfriend.

My most embarrassing moment was ... when I asked this famous Filipino male singer to prove that he could sing. We came from a shoot that we had together, at that time I really did not know who he was. He was such a sport when he proved that he could really sing... hahaha!

I'm saving up for ... my future.

My biggest indulgence is ... food! And the occasional shopping spree. Haha!

My current state of mind is ... ecstatic. I'm looking forward to studying in New York. I hope I do make it into the school I want to go to.

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be ... I have no idea.

My five favorite words are ... Happiness, Love, Peace, Success, Health.

I aspire to be ... a successful designer one day.

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Cristina Garcia

The thing about fame is that ... Being unaffected is the key to success. My indifference to celebrity stems from an upbringing in suburban Australia—half a world away from anything shallow.

People might be surprised to know that ... I'm a magnificent sleeper.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that ... If you are going to do anything, it's got to be worthwhile.

I wish when I started off I'd been told to ... Put stressful things into perspective.

And what this taught me was ... Live each day for each day's worth.

The secret to happiness is ... Live each day for each day's worth.

My best ever outfit consisted of a ... Champagne and a total absence of vomit.

My Super! Saturday night consists of ... La musical.

The thing that makes me most angry is ... Wasting time. If I was the most powerful person on earth ... I would tend the world.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say ... You better be careful, there may be a few bones in that closet.

If money was no option ... I would travel all year.

When I retire, I would like ... To do exactly what I'm doing now, live in my favorite cities. It's all about the three Ms: Manila, Melbourne and Manhattan.

My hero is ... My grandmother.

The thing that makes my life worth living is ... Family, friends and food.

My greatest hope for the future is ... To be happy, live a useful and fulfilled life.

The worst thing somebody said about me was ... I'm not interested in negative things people have to say about me. I'm here for the duration, so get used to it!

My favorite moments are when ... Fits of laughter are involved.

My most embarrassing moment was when ... I'm outspoken so my foot is constantly in my mouth.

My biggest indulgence is ... Food, it's what I live for.

My current state of mind is ... Even keeled.

My 5 favorite words are ... Imagine.

Bliss.

Mate.

Chocolate.

Sarapi!

I aspire to be ... A kid forever!



The thing about fame is that ... It makes people go crazy ... everyone wants it!

The thing I have most about what I do is ... I get to travel.

People might be surprised to know that ... I'm really a very shy girl.

The most important thing I've ever learned is ... Never hold back.

I wish I started off being told that ... The grass is never really greener on the other side of the fence!

The worst thing that ever happened to me was ... Spraining my ankle in a different country with absolutely no one to help me.

And what this taught me was ... I can take care of myself

The secret to happiness is ... Not to look for it!

My best ever outfit consisted of a ... long, flowy beach gown.

My Super! Saturday night consists of ... Dinner with friends and a few bottles of wine.

The soundtrack to my life would include ... Gwen Stefani's What You Waiting For?

If I was invisible for a day, I would ... Go to a jewelry store

If I was the most powerful person on earth ... I will end all wars.

The best thing about family is ... They should

love you no matter what

**When I'm gone, they'll probably say .. "So
where's the after-funeral party?"**

**If money was no option .. I would pay off the
Philippines' debts just to see what would happen
next**

**When I retire, I would like to .. hang out and
watch movies with my hubby-to-be**

**The world would be a much better place if ..
Greed could finally be cured.**

**My hero is .. *My La* Rosanna Estrera
Galvez**

**My greatest hope for the future .. No more
injustice, racism and poverty.**

**The worst thing somebody said about me
was ... What would you rather be called, a model
or a maid? (This was in Hong Kong, after finding
out I'm Filipino.**

**My most embarrassing moment was ... when
my foot fell in a hole on the sidewalk and when
I took it out, it was completely soaked in thick,
black sewer sludge. And it was my first and last
time to wear my super cute boots!**

**If someone would play me in my biopic it
would be ... Can I play myself? My back-up
though would be Natasia Portman.**

**My 5 favorite words are ... Three words: It
wasn't me!**

I aspire to be .. A brilliant conversationalist

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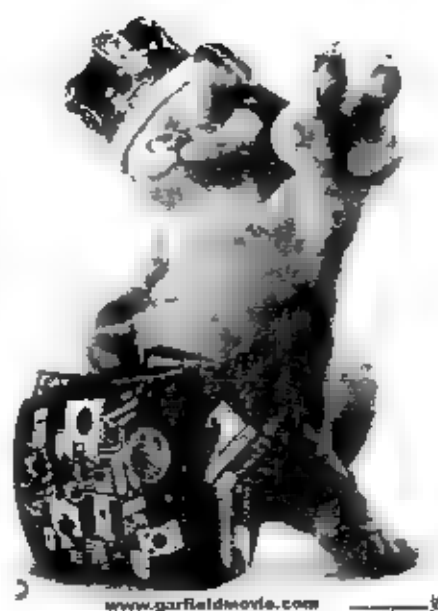
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DIGITAL II
PictureStage

I <insert phone model here>, therefore I am.

By Pepe Diokno

CELL PHONES HAVE BECOME like extra appendages—for a lot of us, our phones have been part of our bodies since before we even started high school. Back then, we couldn't get enough of texting, the vibrating alert (admit it), and even Snake.

Infrared came in, and oh my god, we were able to play Snake with each other. (I realize that sounds more off than it should.) We showed off our new operator logos and picture messages; we couldn't stop composing monotonous, we looked out for newspaper ads to see the stuff we could download.

We were given the freedom to personalize our phones. We bought different cases; we put stickers on them, and even those little dangling things. We were so proud of our personalized 5110s.

Colored screens debuted, then Bluetooth. We were ecstatic swapping stuff and wondering who has what Bluetooth ID. We weren't just able to play games against one another; we didn't even have to be facing each other! That was cool.

Then, the unthinkable happened—some genius decided to put a camera in our phones! It changed the world. God, it changed the world. It wasn't just those cool games where you had to chase mosquitos around the room. It wasn't just the birth of a class of camwhores.

Millions of people started raising their phones to eye-level, capturing everything they see. It became so easy, and so tempting, for one to document their life. And with this came a new usage of "me." We became our own icons, our own paparazzo's and stars. We started to see the importance of "me."

It's hard to separate the Me generation from their cell phones. I think it's because, together with the Internet, it created the generation. With cell phones came individuality, freedom, importance, connectivity—things that make this peer group what it is.

Tap to the future

Now, as cell phones evolve, so does our generation. It seems that we are what we can do with our phones. Within the next few years, we'll have TV on our mobiles, Internet and video calling. One day we might have movies on our mobiles too.

What does that mean for our generation? Music and movies are one of the few things



that bring people our age together. I bring my iPod around just to show my friends funny videos. Whole groups huddle around a stereo just to hear a song. They are integral parts of individuality, but music and movies on cell phones is all about sharing them with friends.

You know, it's one of the great things about our generation—we've somehow come to realize that knowing ourselves brings us closer to others. That we can personalize our phones all we want, but still be extremely connected.

It's gonna be fun—shelling out thousands just to keep up with things. Or ... not. It depends.

Press 2 twice for B(ut)

Talk of new cell phone models makes me salivate sometimes. (I'm not talking about Kelly Misa, Nicole Hernandez, and Christina Garcia—they're Addict models, not cell phone models.) Heck, Engadget.com's on my Gmail RSS feed. It's fun to ogle.

But there's a problem with all this. We never asked for any of this. We've never asked for Spiderman ringtones and wallpapers. We've never asked for TV on our phones. What's happening is that the supply of possibilities creates our demand for it.

What I'm saying is, content providers want you to receive their content—they'll bring it to you no matter what. They'll make you download and stream their product. You'll lap it up, put them on your phones and have a

ball. It's never been the other way around. You've never been crazy about this Korean-novela before it's been shown on air.

As things become more available, we'll get lost in everything. And when we're so lost, we'll realize, "Hey, this isn't the Me generation anymore." Cause we'll realize that we didn't make our personalities, content providers did.

Many of us are victims of this already. I'm talking about people who see themselves in their cell phones, those who attach their being onto the things they buy. Lots of us gets sucked into fads—we buy flip flops just cause they're cool or whatever.

We cannot turn this generation into one that allows companies to construct our personalities for us. That would be too much of an insult on ourselves.

So, with this influx of possibilities we should know how to weed things out. We should never be slaves of "what's in," or, "what everyone's doing."

We should also learn to separate ourselves from the material symbols of personality—you're who you are whether you're naked or clothed.

Ok, lemme put it in simple terms: Girls and boys, you're not your cell phones.

Or please, let us not be the cell phone generation.

Remember, it's "Me," and not "my cell phone."

SUPER SELECTION

A new generation of addiction

THE NEW generation of addiction is not just about the latest mobile phone model, but about the way we use it. We are addicted to the constant connectivity, the instant gratification of a text message or a photo. We are addicted to the feeling of being always on, always connected.

EMERGENCY YOU HAVE BEEN SEEN

It's not just about the latest mobile phone model, but about the way we use it. We are addicted to the constant connectivity, the instant gratification of a text message or a photo. We are addicted to the feeling of being always on, always connected.

EMERGENCY YOU HAVE BEEN SEEN

It's not just about the latest mobile phone model, but about the way we use it. We are addicted to the constant connectivity, the instant gratification of a text message or a photo. We are addicted to the feeling of being always on, always connected.

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The changing
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guard is a
fascinating
fact of life. But
it's just
getting, like,
way too fast

Kiss tomorrow hello

MEET Paris' 12-year-old brother Conrad Hilton

AT THE DAWN OF this millennium, pop announced its identity to our generation, an extra special shout-out brimming with boyband backflips and some spanking Mouseketeer ears. "Britney or Christina?" was a legit question—a deal-breaker in certain situations—that stretched out the stonewashed denim dreams of our Gen-X fore-runners.

The then-ultimate eye candy dispenser of tween-teen culture? It was easily Britney, VH1's #1 Teen Idol of Our Time circa three years ago. That said, the easy-breezy goings-on of 2003 might seem too recent to revisit. And yeah, we might also be a bit too young to be so nostalgic. (Speaking of, where is Miss Spears now? We'll get to that in a sec.)

But as far as our junior galaxy is concerned, the jump from then to now has been carnival-freak crazy. Loaded with popstastic watersheds too many to be ignored, the changing of the teen guard has become not so much a fantasy sequence but, like, a fascinating fact of life.

Teen timeline

It was around 1941 when the term teenager was believed to have first appeared in an article in Popular Science Monthly, according to Time Magazine's Nancy Gibbs. In a 2005 special report, "Being 13," she summed up the teen timeline like this: "Our notions of childhood are relatively recent innovations, and when parents lament that today's children 'grow up too fast,' it is worth asking 'Compared to when?'"

It's true that today's teens—thriving in a competitive push-button publishing world—are a new breed. Then again, so were the ones that came before them.

"Worldly, interesting, informed and even intellectual when barely out of childhood, young kids all over the U.S. are pulling down the age to teendom. Even as they do, the affluent society is pushing up the average age of school leaving. The lengthened span of teen-ager is further fattened by a growth rate of the teen-age population that is four times as high as the U.S. average." You may think that this ob-

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

servation is straight out of the blogosphere, but surprise: It came out 40-ish years ago—Jan. 29, 1965 to be exact—in, again, Time Magazine.

Yesterday's up-and-comers

We follow certain coming-of-age templates as we evolve. But the game goes apace once you sprinkle reality TV, peer-to-peer technology, and aggressive me-centric marketing into the mix. Things get even more abbreviated than Andy Warhol's prescribed 15 minutes; this is de facto especially in the teen pop culture scene. I mean, just ask Britney.

Jog your memory back to simpler times when Britney Spears was still earning her training wheels as a seventeen-year-old in a racy school-girl outfit. It's hard to believe that since then, Brit has been a virgin, not a virgin, married, divorced, a lesbian, not a lesbian, married again, pregnant, an unfit parent, pregnant again, and almost divorced—all by the ripe old age of 24. Or not.

The Veronica to her Betty, Christi-

na Aguilera hasn't been so awesome lately either. After wowing the world with cute songs about genies in bottles and stuff, the hits started drying up for the ex-Mouseketeer. Which is a shame, since before she transformed into a scary skank with more wardrobe gimmicks than a pro wrestler, she was doing really well. Really.

Today's teen machines

While those two were keeping yesterday's youth economy flowing, the current crop of hotshots was probably sipping smoothies on a shopping mall escalator. Previously backstage kids waiting on tiptoe, they are now the golden standard as far as the teenage species goes.

Lindsay Lohan's career trajectory seems to be based on her own movie, the snarkily-written "Mean Girls." From a sweet-yet-mousy tween in "The Parent Trap" ("Mean Girls" equivalent: entering as a teen home-schooled in Africa), LiLo, as she is derisively called, has turned into a favorite tabloid target ("Mean Girls" equivalent: becoming a member of The Plastics).

Hilary Duff's life, on the other hand, hasn't been as peppered with drug scandals, public feuds, or boyfriend-swapping bouts. But her squeaky clean image has forced some critics to instead pan her talents, deeming her attempts at acting ("Cheaper By The Dozen 2" gets a special mention) as being deep like a kiddie pool.

Tomorrow's fresh heirs

If you've had enough of today, let's talk about tomorrow and train our eyes on Gen Z's headline-grabbing heavyhitters.

Hotly tipped to lead this new, new school are 13-year-olds Dylan and Cole Sprouse. Already drawing in Disney dollars via their show "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody," the twins have already signed a licensing agreement with Dualstar Entertainment to launch a new commercial brand, "Sprouse Bros.," aimed at preteen and teen audiences. Incidentally, Dualstar is owned by another dynamic duo, Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen.

On the subject of TV networks, Disney seems to be churning out tween stars the way the WB did back in the day. Though 20, Ricky Ullman ("Phil of the Future") is still pulling them in. So is 18-year-old Brenda Song, who's in the Sprouse twins' show as London Tipton, an obvious

JAMIE Lynn Spears, 14, has her own hit Nickelodeon show, "Zoey 101"

BRITNEY JUNIOR?

Eating Tips to Prevent Obesity for Life

by Tina Juan



Adult health bane such as heart disease and hypertension start early on in life. Not only do obese children have higher blood pressure and cholesterol levels than normal weight children, but their lifestyle habits are formed during childhood. Couch potato kids and junior junk food junkies develop into adults with bad eating habits, suffering weight problems even if they were not overweight as children.

It is hypocritical to force a child to exercise when you do not. Many child weight loss experts say that the most difficult part of their work is to convince parents to make changes in their lifestyles to set an example for their children.

Generally, experts agree that a child is overweight when he or she is 20 percent above the normal weight for that height and age. Check with your pediatrician or family doctor for the appropriate height-weight charts.

EATING TIPS TO PREVENT OBESITY IN CHILDREN

Seek professional advice.

If you want a specific diet plan that lists the right amount of food and the correct balance of nutrients, consult a registered dietician or nutritionist.

Exert your parental authority.

Parents are key to preventing children from becoming overweight because they exert the greatest control on a young child. Mothers, in particular, control what is bought at the grocery and how food is cooked at home. Both parents decide what restaurants the family will dine in. Use your authority wisely and do not allow your children to eat foods that contain more preservatives and artificial ingredients than health-building nutrients.

Do not put the child on a "diet".

This may stunt their growth and develop in them an unhealthy attitude toward food, leading them to develop an eating disorder. Rather, give them the types of food in amounts appropriate to their specific stage of growth. This information is also available from a nutritionist or the many books on children's health and nutrition.

Do not focus on weight loss.

You might be sending the wrong message about food and exercise by constantly harping on weight loss. Sensible eating habits and regular physical activity should be encouraged for healthy gains and not just for weight loss.

Encourage, do not nag.

Nagging an adult to lose weight doesn't work; neither does it work for kids. Encourage your kids to eat healthy food by making sure it is tasty, well-prepared, and easily available at home.

Control the temptation.

If you have to take children to the mall, feed them a healthy meal before leaving the house so they don't beg for a trip to the nearest fast food joint. If you are also trying to lose weight, this will work for you too.

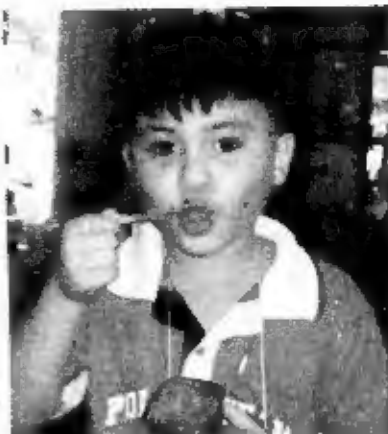
If you're at the grocery with your kids, plan your grocery shopping and do your best to avoid passing the snacks and sweets sections. Staying in control of their cravings while shopping is easiest if you make it a rule not to shop when you're hungry.

Avoid eating in front of the TV.

This is called "mindless eating" because the mind is preoccupied with the TV and is not "aware" of how much food is actually being consumed.

Don't bring "problem" foods home.

You may not be able to control what food your kids buy in school but you can control what they eat at home. This is the simplest and most effective way to rid your home of unwanted calories and the best strategy in introducing your children to good nutrition. Provide your children a healthy and nutritious home by stocking up on fruits, vegetables, whole grain cereals and bread, lean meats, poultry and seafood, and low-fat dairy products. Serve natural fiber-rich foods for snacks like boiled corn, boiled or baked sweet potato (camote), boiled bananas instead of high-sodium, high-fat, high-calorie processed snacks.



Don't force children to finish their food.

According to experts, children have a built-in appetite mechanism that is surprisingly accurate. Parents who force their children to eat even when they aren't hungry, tamper with this appetite mechanism and the children might grow up into adults who eat non-stop.

Be aware of "emotional overeating".

When there is stress and tension in a child's life due to family or school problems, they can be prone to "emotional overeating" as an outlet for their frustrations. A child's emotional health will have to be addressed first before tackling the issue of overeating.

Do not use food as a bribe or reward.

Children who are comforted, bribed or rewarded with food grow up into adults who use food to comfort themselves when stressed out or to reward themselves or a job well done.

Start good eating habits early.

Kids develop a "sweet" or "salty" tooth at a young age. Experts say that if young children are not allowed to get used to these strong tastes, they have a better chance of developing good eating habits because their taste buds will not crave these types of foods.

As a parent, always tell yourself that if you want your kids to live healthy, you will have to take an honest assessment of your own lifestyle because kids will follow what you do more than what you say.

Tina Juan is the resident health and fitness expert of the Gizmo Advisory Board (GAB), an advocacy group that promotes the responsible mobile connectivity for the youth. Composed of top parenting, communication, and learning experts, GAB is convened by Globe Gizmo Prepaid—the country's first prepaid mobile brand for kids—in order to lend their insights and expertise on child-friendly connectivity options and interactive learning opportunities.



One of the GAB's flagship projects was the development of Gizmobits, a FREE educational service offering daily fun facts in four different areas. MYMIND has study tips and helpful facts about science and other subjects; MYWORLD introduces kids to diverse sights and traditions here and abroad; MYCONNECTIONS teaches kids how to connect with themselves, with others, and with God; while MYBODY is all about proper hygiene, nutrition, and fitness. Your child just needs to text GIZMOBITS to 2811 to access the educational tips mentioned above.

For past articles and exercises or to suggest future topics, go to www.tinajuanfitness.info.

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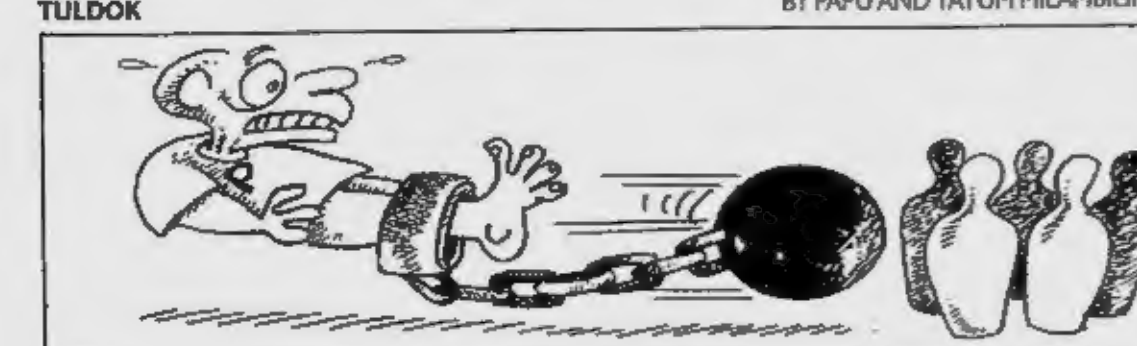
ATOMO AND WEBOY



KIKO MACHINE



TULDOK



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PUGAD BABOY



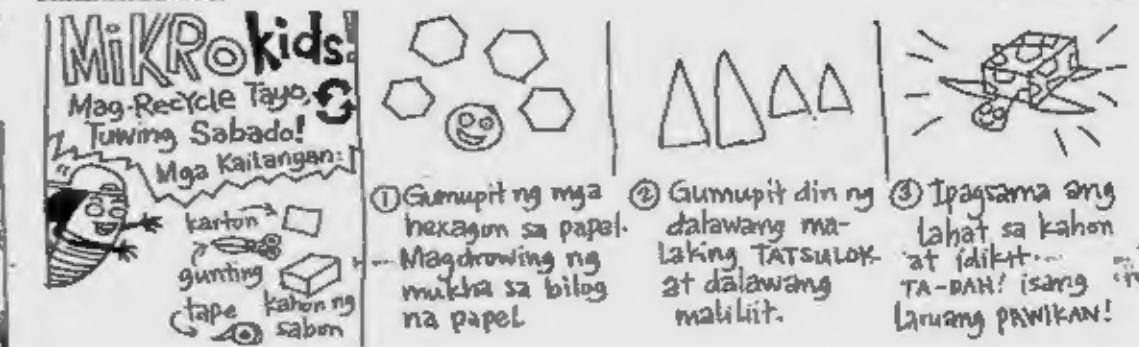
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DIVINE COMEDY



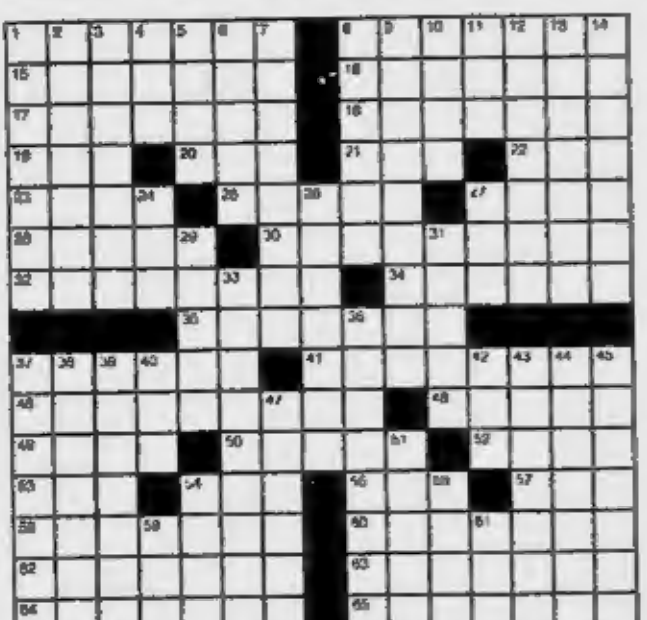
MIKROKOSMOS



BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Price
Chicago, IL

- ACROSS**
- Conforms
 - Rick of "Ghostbusters"
 - Difficult problem
 - Eagerness
 - One end of a sleeve
 - Won back
 - Chop off
 - Unite
 - Intense anger
 - pro nobis
 - Soul singer
 - Redding
 - Aroma
 - Smacking blow
 - Ghost costume
 - Alaskan chain
 - City on Onondaga Lake
 - Like some birds
 - Tastefully luxurious
 - "Romeo and Juliet" role
 - Open to litigation
 - Newspaper banners
 - Certain runner
 - Jug handles
 - One subatomic particle
 - Author of "Death in Venice"
 - Yow. It's cold!
 - Raven's cry
 - Conk out
 - Bring to life
 - Censorious speeches
 - City on the Ganges
 - Obvious
 - Nervous to the mix
 - Expels from a country
- DOWN**
- Perplexed
 - Dandage of "Carmen Jones"
 - More likely to bolt
 - That's disgusting!
 - Display
 - Flooring squares
 - Arl
 - USMC word
 - Capsize
 - Ceremonial practice
 - Oklahoma town
 - Rimski-Korsakov's first name
 - Repeating
 - Nerve junction
 - Neptune's realm
 - Mourful poems
 - Posa for shots
 - Immune system component
 - Jazz pianist Art
 - Maximus
 - Consisting of various kinds
 - George Herman Ruth
 - Hed strong cravings
 - Blocking
 - Promos
 - Objective
 - Distensible sec
 - Indulgent
 - Tubid and Trust
 - Most recent
 - Guiltless
 - Concern
 - Problem with a lap
 - ...to cocktail
 - Husto and bustle

HOROSCOPE

- YOU BORN TODAY:** You're goal-oriented. (You have your eye on the prize.) This is why you have high standards and place big demands on yourself. You have a fine mind. You're aware of relationships and spatial connections. You work well with changing conditions, which is why you like to travel. In the year ahead, if you work hard to construct something, you'll be pleased.
- Birthdate of:** M.C. Escher, graphic artist; Venus Williams, tennis player; Jello Biafra, singer/performer.
- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): Parents must be patient with children today, even if things feel world-weary or burdensome. Artists can work hard with what is at hand.
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): Be patient with family members today. It won't be easy, but on the other hand, you have great stamina and endurance today.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): Your mind is made up about something. Nothing will dissuade you. You can maintain this position, but you don't have to make others agree with you.
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): You're willing to work very hard to earn money today. You won't mind doing whatever is routine, dull and boring. You're prepared to do whatever it takes.
- LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have great determination today. You can work long hours, doing relatively boring, routine work. Use this opportunity to your best advantage.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If you think somebody is working behind the scenes against you, you might be right. On the other hand, this same astrological aspect means you can work very well alone today.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Because you have to respond to the needs of others (possibly a group), your freedom of activity is curtailed. Work with what you've got; do the best you can.
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Although you're very ambitious now, bosses and authority figures might stand in your way. Don't make a big deal about this. Just do what you can. Don't make waves.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Because your powers of concentration are great today, you can make headway in areas connected with education, the media, publishing and dealing with foreign countries. You're in the groove.
- CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You can't get something from others if they won't give it to you today. Just let things unfold in their own time. (Once a year, a snake sheds its skin to stay alive. But if you pull off its skin, you'll kill it.)
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Dealings with partners and close friends are contentious or a bit grim today. Respect where others are coming from. Don't push the river.
- PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can accomplish a great deal today at work. You're willing to do routine, repetitive tasks. You simply want to get the job done. Good.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

4	3			5		7		
			7	2	8			
	3		4		5		1	
	2			1			5	
	7		6		2		8	
			5	8	6			
9	8					6		4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	2	5	8	9	7	3	6	4
6	4	9	5	3	2	7	1	8
7	3	8	4	6	1	2	5	9
8	9	4	6	2	3	1	7	5
3	1	2	7	4	5	8	9	6
5	6	7	1	8	9	4	2	3
4	8	1	9	7	6	5	3	2
2	7	6	3	5	8	9	4	1
9	5	3	2	1	4	6	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★



13-YEAR-old twins Dylan and Cole Sprouse are the new Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen

Kiss tomorrow hello

From page D1

spoof of airhead heiress Paris Hilton. Nickelodeon, on the other hand, has 14-year-old Jamie Lynn Spears, Britney's sister, who headlines her own smash show, "Zoey 101," and Emma Roberts, Julia Roberts' 15-year-old niece, who has "Unfabulous." While Fox may have lost Mischa Barton's character Marissa Cooper on "The O.C.," the suits have lost no time in building up 14-year-old Willa Holland, who plays bad-girl baby sister Kaitlin.

Meanwhile, the Teen Vogue crowd has even more emerging boldfaced names. After the celeb-tante Hilton sisters come the celeb-dude Hilton brothers: Barron, 16, and Conrad, 12. Fashion also has budding icons in the form of Bee Schaeffer (Anna Wintour's daughter), Julia Restoin (Carine Roitfeld's

daughter), and Allegra Beck (Donatella Versace's daughter). Showbiz, of course, is starstruck over Josh Hutcherson, 13, ("Little Man-Hotatun," "Zathura," "RV"); Camilla Belle, 19 ("When A Stranger Calls," "A Little Princess"); and the music world's Chris Brown, 16, who is being called the baby Usher.

Fickle business

Tasked with turning good-looking nobodies into household superstars, this teen culture business is a relentlessly fickle one. The exact turning point when one's built-in teen appeal fades is when he or she chooses to shed the bubblegum veneer.

Don't look now, but it's happening to this second's young celebrities. Lindsay Lohan is totally mainstream, splashed across newsstands

as a Vanity Fair cover star. Mary-Kate Olsen has similarly crossed over, turning up on W.I. mean, even the dizzy cast of "Laguna Beach" has to graduate "high school" and move on to "college," right? If you care to notice, the what's-next mentality is favoring increasingly younger but savvier talents, leaving the recent past's teen idols prematurely old and obsolete.

Since the journey from up-and-coming to has-been has been fast-tracked even more, how will the situation be for tomorrow's adolescent heirs? Will the public soon clamor for whipsmart 7-year-olds and other such ancient souls in nymphet bodies? Or will we reach that point when 7 will be over the hill? See, change is always good. But what's scary is that today, it's happening way, way too fast.

Wackiest Shot with Dad!

Treat your Dad to Greenwich and join the Wackiest Shot with Dad promo.

Awsome prizes await lucky winners!

- Greenwich Gift Certificates
- Kodak EasyShare C634 Digital Camera
- Kodak 128 SD Card
- 1 year supply of Enervon tablets
- 1 year supply of Enervon-E
- 2 T-shirts

Criteria for judging:

- Exhibits wackiness - 40%
- Dad & child rapport - 20%
- Creativity - 20%
- Overall Appeal - 20%
- 100%**

Promo period: June 12-25, 2006
Last day for submission of entries is on the closing hours of June 25, 2006

Kodak **greenwich**

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SM STORYLAND

10th BIRTHDAY

Nina's soulful Serenade for Dads

PLDT myMUSIC Dial 101-123 UNLIMITED A

Log on to www.pldt.net

For most of us, Father's Day is simple celebration to honor our dads. For soul siren Nina, it is a day that brings back memories of a man that has become her mentor and inspiration. During Nina's PLDT myMusic's Live Chat viewed live via webcast on PLDT myPad and heard over Wave 89.1, she revealed how her father has made a difference in her career and her life.

"I had a very close relationship with my dad. Medyo daddy's girl ako," Nina confessed.

Nina says that it was her dad that introduced her to music. Her dad Filbert, who passed away six years ago, was an accountant by trade but like her, a singer at heart. He was a member of the Bayanihan Boys Choir, singing for foreign dignitaries around the world.

Together they would listen to Frank Sinatra, Matt Monroe, Julio Inglecias and Barry Manilow. Nina distinctly remembers her father's favorite song, Through the Years by Kenny Rogers. She also admits that it was her father who taught her how to sing.

"He was really my teacher. Everything about singing I learned from him. Things like breathing, diction, kung saan huhugutin yung boses," she said.

As early as five years old, Nina's father noticed his young daughter's singing potential. Under her father's guidance, Nina underwent intensive vocal training. Their father and daughter ritual included vocal exercises early in the morning. She would also belt out songs with her body submerged in a drum of water.

Eventually, all their hard work paid off as Nina's talent blossomed. Today, she is heralded as the country's one and only soul siren and the newest queen of pop. She has gold and platinum selling albums under her belt. She is also one of the select artists featured in PLDT myMusic.

"I'm so honored every time PLDT gives me this opportunity because I get to reach out to families—dads, moms, down to the kids. I'm so excited to be part of this," she revealed.

Nina's Gift to Dads

Nina believes that the best gift a daughter can give to her dad doesn't have to be big, expensive or complicated. It can be as simple and inexpensive as "a letter or card, a song or a call especially if you're father is so far away is a good Father's Day gift". And of course there is also PLDT's greeting service, Only the Best for Dads. As the PLDT myMusic service artist for June, Nina says she proud to be a part of PLDT's special tribute to dads. It is her way of celebrating her dad's memory by bringing happiness to fathers everywhere.

Let Nina serenade your dad with PLDT's Only the Best for Dads greeting service. Simply dial 101-143, choose from Nina's mesmerizing renditions of "Greatest Gift of All," "Sunlight" and more, and send to your dad's PLDT landline or SMART cellphone

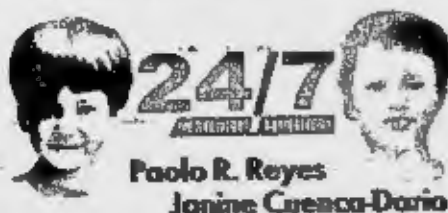
Father's Day suddenly sounds more beautiful with Nina serenading dads through PLDT's Only The Best For Dads greeting service.

at only P10 per send together with your personal dedication. For only P30 charged to your phone bill, you can have unlimited access to this service until June 30. First three sends to a PLDT landline is absolutely free.



Nina's live chat with PLDT myMusic subscribers was simultaneously webcasted over PLDT myPad

You may also get to talk to Nina via live chat by subscribing to PLDT myMusic. Special invites to her Very Manilow concert at the Music Museum held during Fridays and Saturdays for the whole month of June await myMusic subscribers and special dads. Just dial 101-123 or log on to www.mypad.net to get unlimited access to your kind of music. Because if you love music, you'll definitely love PLDT myMusic.



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Paternal Secrets

ON THIS FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND, you might find yourself inundated with a barrage of mouth-watering offers from hotels and restaurants, all tempting you to part with your well-earned moolah.

24/7 hopes to alleviate your anxieties with a listing of some great places to celebrate, Father's Day or otherwise:

Rinco-Renzo Café (G/F LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Makati, phone: 898-2542) has free Salsa lessons every Saturday night at 8 p.m. Do not miss the Pepper-encrusted Tuna Sashimi and the Raffa Apple Pie with grated Gouda cheese, voted one of the best desserts in town. Since the food would make you want to throw your diet out the window, burn those unwanted calories after dinner and hit the dance floor!

Jill's and Jack's (Level 1, Fort Strip, Taguig, phone: 818-4557). Discover why this unre-

tentious resto-duo is packed almost all nights of the week. With great food combined with nightly entertainment, it is no wonder. My personal favorite dish is the Prawns Thermidore with garlic pasta. Other best-sellers include the Saipicado and Chicken a la Kiew. Their Cheese-cake is also a certified hit. Friday, their busiest night of the week, is called DecaDance featuring DJ Boyet Almazan and the disco hits from the 70's to the 90's. The place is packed with the country's who's who and is a wicked place for dancing and people-watching. Better reserve a table a few days in advance. Or come before dinner time.

Greenbelt 2 and 3 is always the default choice offering quiet fine dining and upbeat entertainment. Café Havana (G/F, Greenbelt 3) is the only bar that's busy even on Sunday nights. Sagafredo (G/F, Greenbelt 3, phone 757-4058) a great choice of because of its thin-crust pizza. Do not miss the Quattro Formaggio and their antipasto. Have a enjoyable week discovering some of the city's nocturnal and culinary secrets!

Other Super! 24/7 events:

June 17, Saturday

Art in the Park, 8am to 4pm at the Velasquez Park in Salcedo Village. A special art fair wherein all quality artwork, paintings, photographs and prints will be priced below 20 thousand. Art in the Park is part of the second anniversary celebration of the Salcedo Community. DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campout Night at Magnet Café; Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundlegood at Embassy Cuisine;

June 18, Sunday

Clowns Without Borders photo exhibit at Greenbelt 3; Palette's Eye art exhibit at LUP Jorge B. Vargas Museum; Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental); Champagne Brunch at Spiral (Hotel Phil. Plaza)

June 19, Monday

Parokya ni Edgar at 70s Bistro; Gary Grana-

da at Conspiracy; Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Folies de Mwah at Club

June 20, Tuesday

Jammin' Reggae w/ Brownman Revival at Conspiracy; Up Dharma Down, Drip, Outerhope, & Bagetsafonik at Saguljo; Hemp Republic at 70s Bistro; Sitti at Tavern on the Square; Cuisine Royale w/ DJ Manolo Dario at Embassy Cuisine

June 21, Wednesday

DJ Boyet Almazan w/ Freestyle at Strumm's; DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; Spy, Rinka, Djs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Djs Mars Miranda & Johnnyverse at Embassy Club; DJ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; DJ Crash at Temple; DJ Brit at Government

June 22, Thursday

James Taylor Jam w/ Paolo Santos & Pido at 70s Bistro; Broadway Night at Conspiracy; Reggae Night at 6Underground; SPIT at Magnet Café; Musings Of A Cigarette Smoking Man, Boldstar, Helen, and Itchyworms at Saguljo; Supahstar DJ Thursdays at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple

June 23, Friday

Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; Razorback at Saguljo; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Matt; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more info, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Get your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restos around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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